JULY

FOUR

FAVORITES

10¢

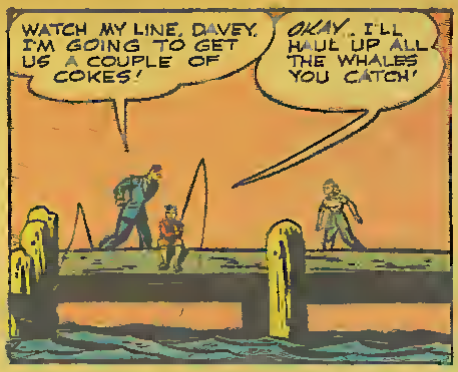
ALL NEW COMICS

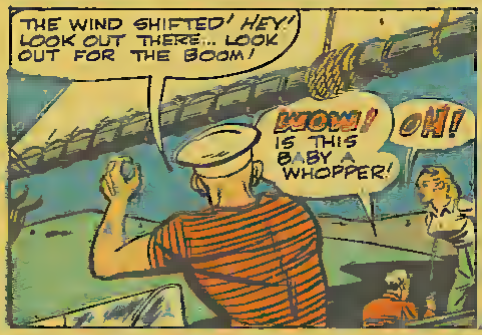
NEW ADVENTURES OF
MAGNO, THE FLAG,
LIGHTNING,
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
AND MR. RISK

MAGNO AND Davey

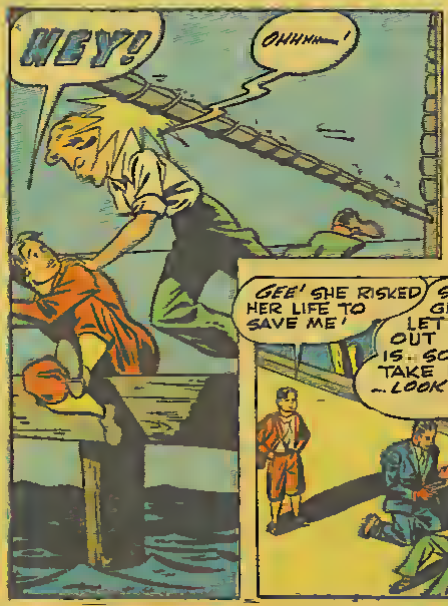
AS SATANIC MUSIC POURS FROM A HELL SPAWNED CONTRAPTION OF EVIL, A BLACK MURDERER CHUCKLES. JUKE JOINT JOHN HIS REIGN OF UNKNOWN TERROR, WHEN CAN STOP PERSON, KNOWS ITS SECRET, AND SHE IS BOUND TO SILENCE BY A BOND STRONGER THAN LIFE ITSELF!

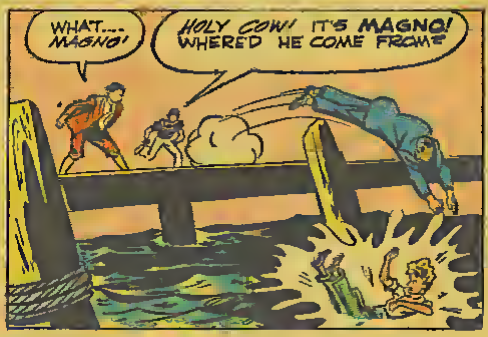
ON A SMALL FISHING WHARF, AMERICA'S TWO GREATEST FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE FIND RELAXATION ..

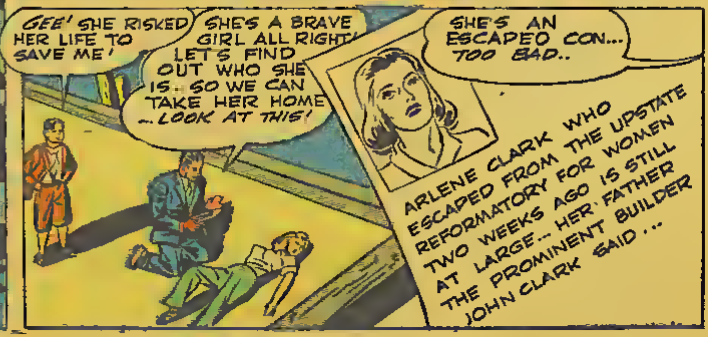




THE BRAVE GIRL SHOVES DAVEY TO THE SIDE, BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH TO PREVENT BEING HIT A GLANCING BLOW!!

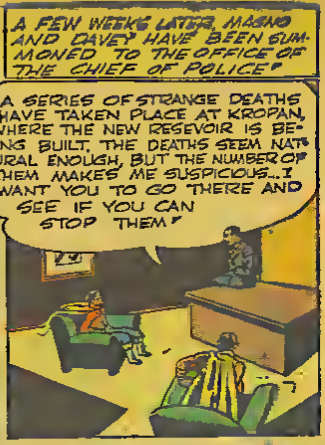






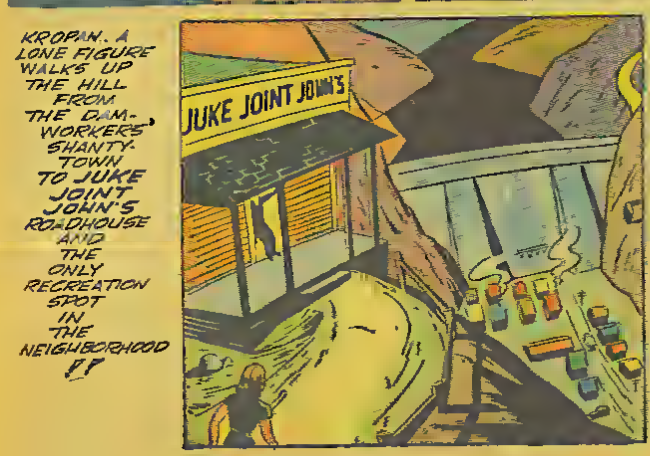
WH...WHERE...YOU KNOW WHO I AM? DON'T TURN ME IN! PLEASE DON'T TURN ME IN!
TURN YOU IN, WHAT FOR?

I CAN'T READ A THING WITHOUT MY GLASSES. I WONDER WHAT WAS ON THAT CLIPPING?
THANKS, MAGNO!!


A FEW WEEKS LATER, MAGNO AND DAVEY HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE!
A SERIES OF STRANGE DEATHS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT KROPAN, WHERE THE NEW RESEVOIR IS BEING BUILT. THE DEATHS SEEM NATURAL ENOUGH, BUT THE NUMBER OF THEM MAKES ME SUSPICIOUS...I WANT YOU TO GO THERE AND SEE IF YOU CAN STOP THEM!

YOUR BIGGEST JOB IS TO SEE THAT THE JOB GETS FINISHED ON SCHEDULE.. THE CITY IS DANGEROUSLY SHORT OF WATER... IN CASE OF AIR RAIDS, FIRE COULD WIPE US OUT!
CONSIDER THE JOB DONE, CHIEF .. WE'LL GO RIGHT TO IT!

MAGNETIZING THEMSELVES TO THE TOWN OF KROPAN ..THE TWO LAW-BRINGERS FLASH THROUGH SPACE!
C'MON DAVEY! THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE
I'M RIGHT WITH YOU, MAGNO!

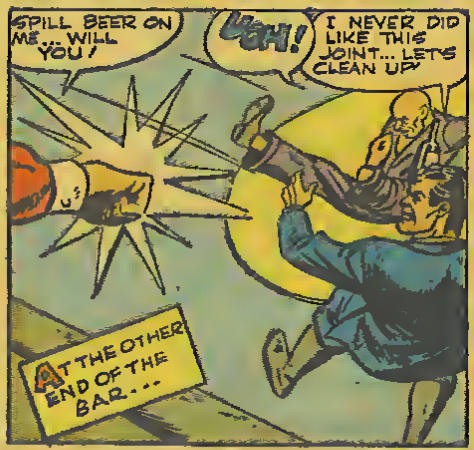

KROPAN. A LONE FIGURE WALKS UP THE HILL FROM THE DAM-WORKER'S SHANTY-TOWN TO JUKE JOINT JOHN'S ROADHOUSE AND THE ONLY RECREATION SPOT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!!
JUKE JOINT JOHN'S

HERE SHE COMES, BOSS!
BRING HER TO ME!

HELLO ARLENE!
YOU SENT FOR ME... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT THE PLANS FOR THE DAM.. EITHER YOU GET THEM FOR ME OR I TELL THE POLICE WHERE THEY CAN FIND YOU!
I WON'T DO IT! YOU WON'T CALL THE POLICE.. I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT YOU!

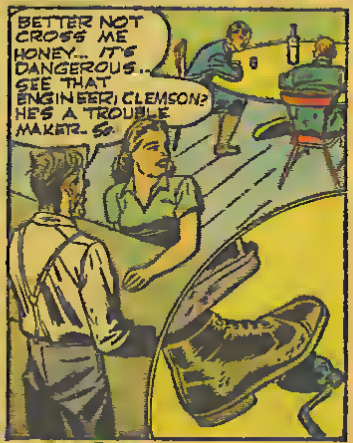
BETTER CHANGE YOUR MIND. I INTEND TO GET THOSE PLANS... ANYWAY...
YOU CAN'T FORCE ME TO DO ANYTHING.. YOU KNOW I WAS FRAMED IN THE FIRST PLACE!
GO AHEAD.. JUST ONE MORE
NO
DON WAN NO MORE


SPILL BEER ON ME... WILL YOU!
UGH!
I NEVER DID LIKE THIS JOINT... LET'S CLEAN UP!
AT THE OTHER END OF THE BAR...

CMON BOYS, LET'S HELP CLEMSON!
UGH!

STOP THIS FIGHT! BREAK IT UP!

BREAK IT UP I SAY
OKAY BOSS!
SORRY!

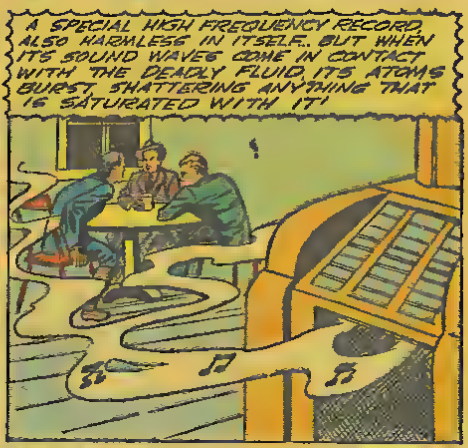

BETTER NOT CROSS ME HONEY... IT'S DANGEROUS.. SEE THAT ENGINEER, CLEMSON? HE'S A TROUBLE MAKER. SO.

I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE.. I GOTTA ANSWER THAT PHONE!
RING

HEY, CLEMSON!!!!! THIS CALL IS FOR YOU!

HELLO!.. HELLO.. WE MUST HAVE BEEN DISCONNECTED HEY! WHAT'S IN MY EAR?
A DREAD LIQUID, HARMLESS IN ITSELF.. SQUIRTS INTO THE ENGINEER'S EAR!

.. WHERE IT SPREADS SATURATING THE DELICATE TISSUES OF HIS EAR DRUM..
NO ONE WAS ON
THEY'LL CALL BACK... WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A LITTLE JIVE MUSIC TO CLEAN UP HARD FEELINGS!
CLICK

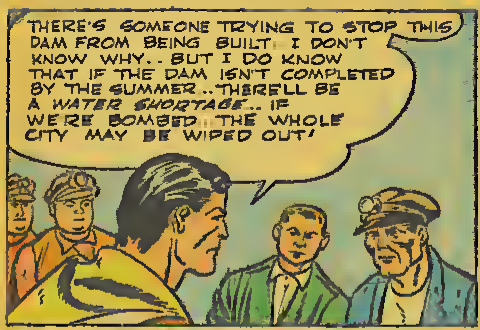

A SPECIAL HIGH FREQUENCY RECORD, ALSO HARMLESS IN ITSELF.. BUT WHEN ITS SOUND WAVES COME IN CONTACT WITH THE DEADLY FLUID, ITS ATOMS BURST, SHATTERING ANYTHING THAT IS SATURATED WITH IT!

AS THE RECORD ENDS CLEMSON FALLS... HIS BRAIN SHATTERED BY THE HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND WAVES

HE'S THE SEVENTH TO DIE!
THIS DAM IS JINXED!
I'M PULLING OUT!
ME TOO!

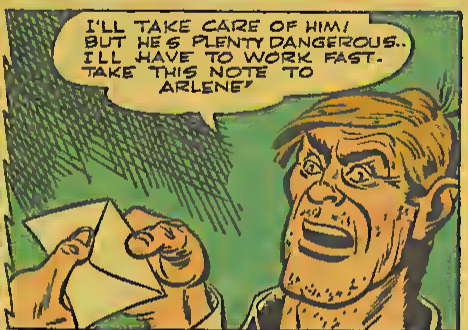
YOU DID IT! YOU SAID YOU WOULD ... I KNOW YOU DID IT!
SURE! IT'S THAT RECORD THAT DOES IT .. BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE IT! AND DON'T YOU DARE TALK.. NOT WHEN I KNOW WHAT I DO ABOUT YOU!

THAT NIGHT....
THEY'RE PLENTY SCARED. A SMALL EXPLOSION TONIGHT SHOULD SETTLE THIS BUSINESS. THEY'LL PULL OUT IN THE MORNING.. THOSE THAT ARE STILL ALIVE!
MAGNO AND DAVEY ARRIVE ABOVE KROPAN!
HERE WE ARE, DAVEY!
AND JUST IN TIME FOR TROUBLE, TOO!
IT'S A CAVE IN!
WE'LL BE CRUSHED ALIVE!
NOT IF I CAN CATCH THAT MAIN CENTER BEAM!
COME ON, YOU MEN! GET OUT... WHILE THE GETTING IS GOOD!
IT'S MAGNO AND DAVEY!
THEY'VE SAVED US!
O.K MAGNO!
YEAH, DAVEY ..O.K. LET'S GET OUT FROM UNDER!
HOORAY!
BR-OOOOMMM
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!
WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
WE'RE QUITTING!

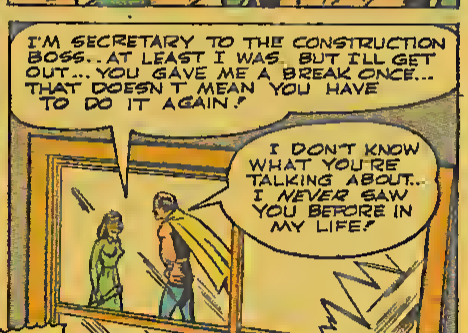

THERE'S SOMEONE TRYING TO STOP THIS DAM FROM BEING BUILT. I DON'T KNOW WHY.. BUT I DO KNOW THAT IF THE DAM ISN'T COMPLETED BY THE SUMMER..THERE'LL BE A WATER SHORTAGE.. IF WE'RE BOMBED..THE WHOLE CITY MAY BE WIPED OUT!

SO WHAT?
SURE! THERE'VE BEEN SEVEN DEATHS AND NOW THIS!
THERE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE I PROMISE YOU THAT!

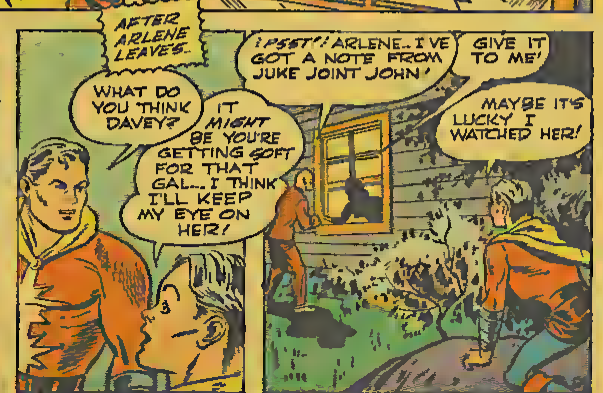
IT'S MAGNO AND DAVEY! THEY SAVED THE CROWD IN THAT CAVE IN!
MAGNO EH?
BACK AT JUKE JOINT JOHN'S...


I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM! BUT HE'S PLENTY DANGEROUS.. I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST. TAKE THIS NOTE TO ARLENE!

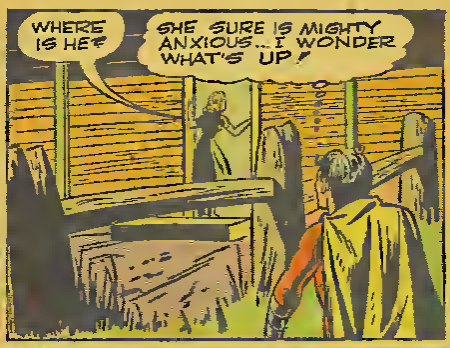
MAGNO AND DAVEY GO TO THE CONSTRUCTION OFFICE!
MAGNO!
DO YOU WORK HERE?

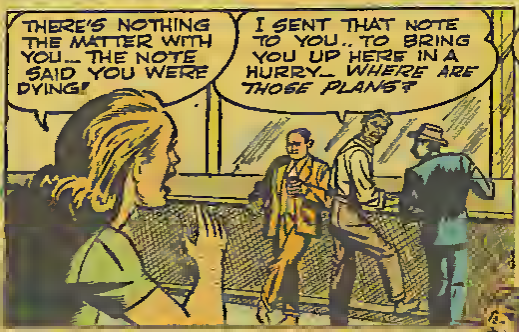

I'M SECRETARY TO THE CONSTRUCTION BOSS..AT LEAST I WAS. BUT I'LL GET OUT...YOU GAVE ME A BREAK ONCE... THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.. I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

THANKS, MAGNO..I WON'T FORGET THIS... TAKE THESE PLANS AND KEEP THEM ON YOU. THEY'RE NOT SAFE ANYWHERE EXCEPT ON YOU!


AFTER ARLENE LEAVES..
WHAT DO YOU THINK DAVEY?
IT MIGHT BE YOU'RE GETTING SOFT FOR THAT GAL...I THINK I'LL KEEP MY EYE ON HER!
¡PSST!! ARLENE..I'VE GOT A NOTE FROM JUKE JOINT JOHN!
GIVE IT TO ME!
MAYBE IT'S LUCKY I WATCHED HER!

TAKE ME TO HIM!
HMMMM... THIS IS GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING... I'LL FOLLOW ALONG!


WHERE IS HE?
SHE SURE IS MIGHTY ANXIOUS... I WONDER WHAT'S UP!

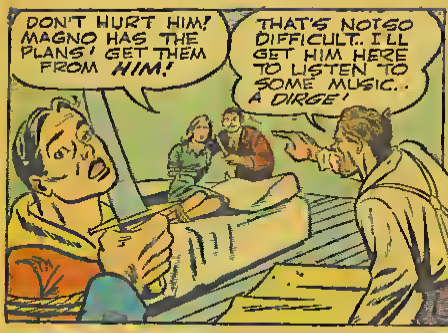

THERE'S NOTHING THE MATTER WITH YOU... THE NOTE SAID YOU WERE DYING!
I SENT THAT NOTE TO YOU.. TO BRING YOU UP HERE IN A HURRY... WHERE ARE THOSE PLANS?

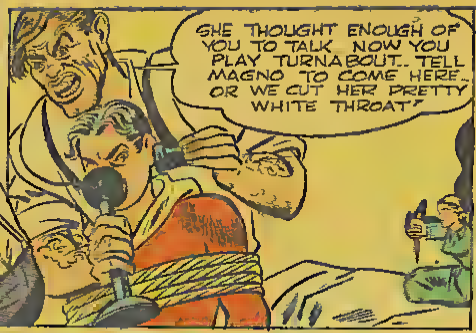
TALK! YOU STUBBORN FOOL!
I WON'T TELL YOU... I WON'T !!

HOW'D YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME OF THAT STRONG ARM STUFF ON ME?
C'MON BOYS! ... IT'S EIGHT TO ONE! GET TOUGH!

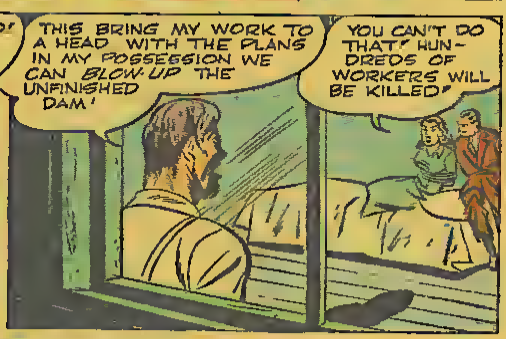
IS THIS TOUGH ENOUGH FOR YOU, SQUIRT?
UGH!

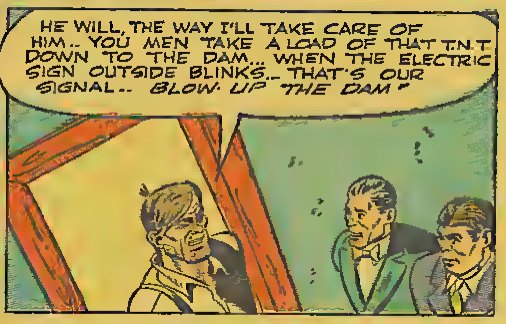
WHEN DAVEY COMES TO.
DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS WITH YOUR MAGNETISM, KID, THESE KNIVES ARE PLASTIC. TELL US WHERE THE PLANS ARE, ARLENE OR I'LL SLASH THE BRAT FROM EAR TO EAR...
DON'T TELL HIM!


DON'T HURT HIM! MAGNO HAS THE PLANS! GET THEM FROM HIM!
THAT'S NOT SO DIFFICULT.. I'LL GET HIM HERE TO LISTEN TO SOME MUSIC.. A DIRGE!


SHE THOUGHT ENOUGH OF YOU TO TALK NOW YOU PLAY TURNABOUT.. TELL MAGNO TO COME HERE.. OR WE CUT HER PRETTY WHITE THROAT!

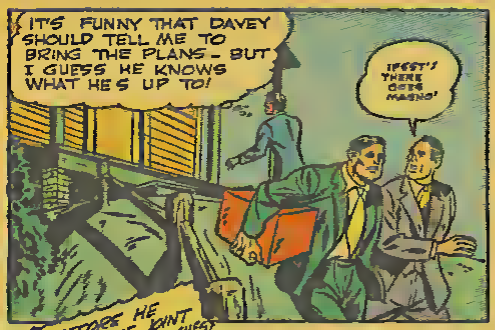
IT'S IMPORTANT MAGNO! COME RIGHT OVER TO JUKE JOINT JOHN'S PLACE ...AND BRING THOSE PLANS ARLENE GAVE YOU!
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
LET THE SWINE DIE! I'LL FIND OTHERS TO REPLACE THEM!
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS... YOU'LL FIND THAT MAGNO DOESN'T DIE AWFUL EASY!

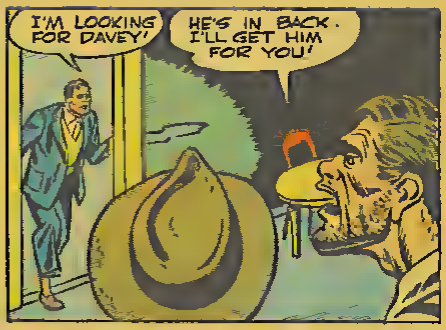

THIS BRING MY WORK TO A HEAD WITH THE PLANS IN MY POSSESSION WE CAN BLOW UP THE UNFINISHED DAM!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! HUNDREDS OF WORKERS WILL BE KILLED!

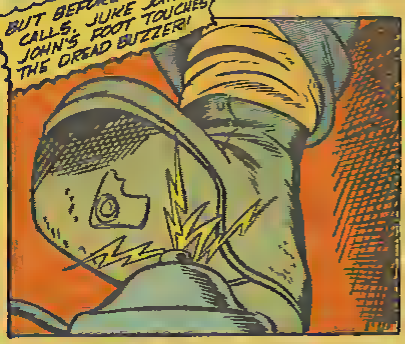

HE WILL, THE WAY I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.. YOU MEN TAKE A LOAD OF THAT T.N.T DOWN TO THE DAM... WHEN THE ELECTRIC SIGN OUTSIDE BLINKS... THAT'S OUR SIGNAL... BLOW UP THE DAM!

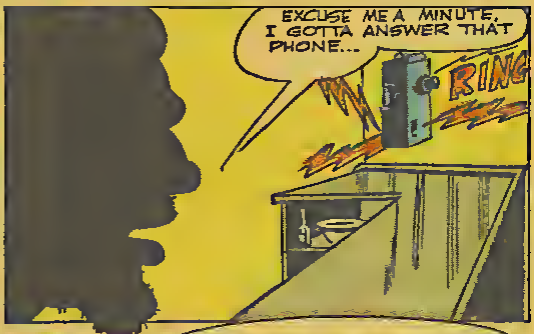
...AND IF THE SQUIRT GETS FRESH CUT THE GIRL'S THROAT AND DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH HIM.. HE MIGHT RISK HIMSELF.. BUT I DON'T THINK HE'LL RISK HER!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT ARLENE... WHAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND JUKE JOINT JOHN?
I CAN'T TELL YOU... I... I CAN'T!

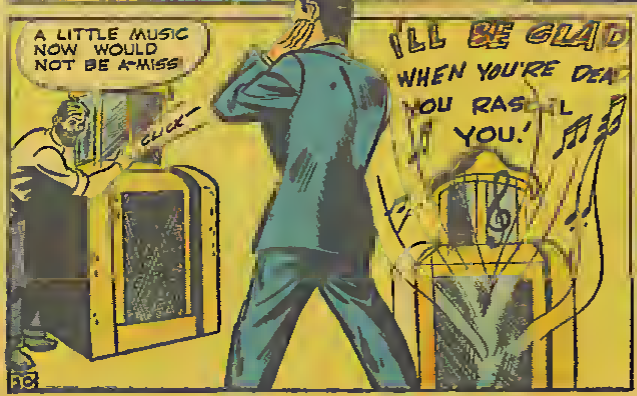

IT'S FUNNY THAT DAVEY SHOULD TELL ME TO BRING THE PLANS - BUT I GUESS HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP TO!
IFCST'! THERE GOES MAGNO!


I'M LOOKING FOR DAVEY!
HE'S IN BACK. I'LL GET HIM FOR YOU!

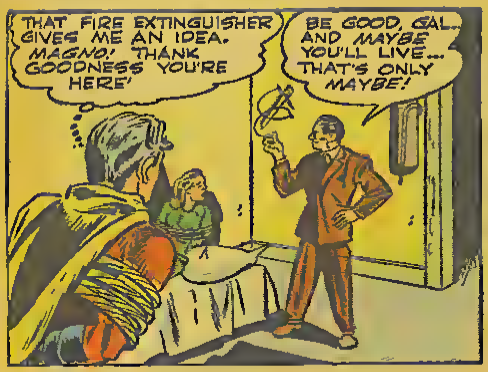

BUT BEFORE HE CALLS, JUKE JOINT JOHN'S FOOT TOUCHES THE DREAD BUZZER!


EXCUSE ME A MINUTE, I GOTTA ANSWER THAT PHONE...
RING

MAGNO... IT'S FOR YOU!
THAT'S QUEER. WHO WOULD BE CALLING ME HERE?
HELLO... HELLO! NO ONE'S ON! GUY! WHAT'S THIS IN MY EAR!


A LITTLE MUSIC NOW WOULD NOT BE A-MISS!
CLICK
I'LL BE GLAD WHEN YOU'RE DEA YOU RAS L YOU!

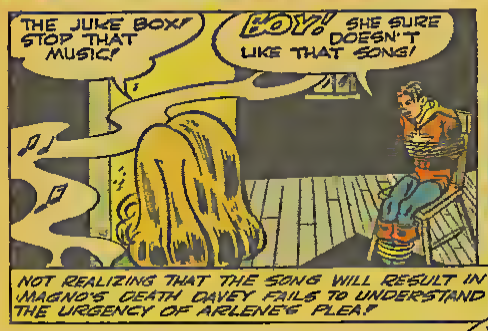
IN THE BACK ROOM...
THAT PHONE. MAGNO'S OUTSIDE.. IT'S THE SPRING ING OF HIS DEATH TRAP!
QUIET!


THAT FIRE EXTINGUISHER GIVES ME AN IDEA. MAGNO! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE!
BE GOOD, GAL... AND MAYBE YOU'LL LIVE... THAT'S ONLY MAYBE!

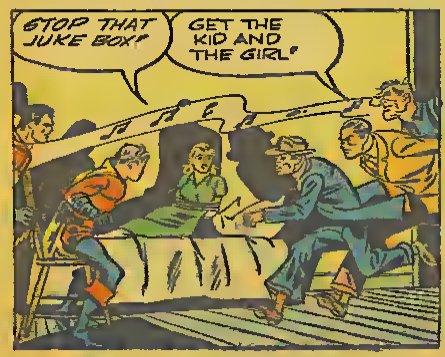
IT'S WORKING GOOD!
WHAT TH..?

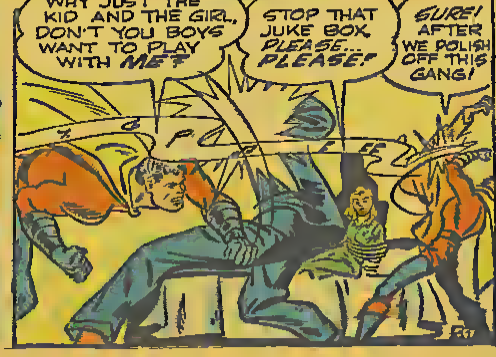
THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER IS PULLED FROM THE WALL BY DAVEY'S MAGNETIC FORCE!
MAGNO

THAT'S DAVEY, AND HE'S IN TROUBLE!
MAGNO

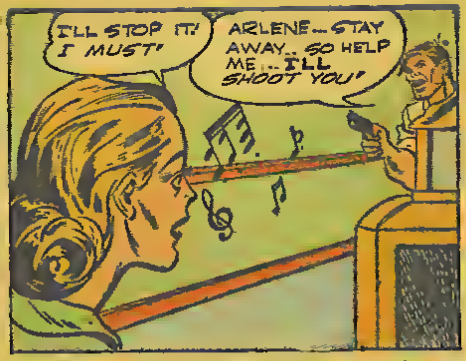

THE JUKE BOX! STOP THAT MUSIC!
BOY! SHE SURE DOESN'T LIKE THAT SONG!
NOT REALIZING THAT THE SONG WILL RESULT IN MAGNO'S DEATH DAVEY FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THE URGENCY OF ARLENE'S PLEA!

DAVEY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TWANG!
CUT ME LOOSE!
THAT MUSIC.. STOP THAT MUSIC!

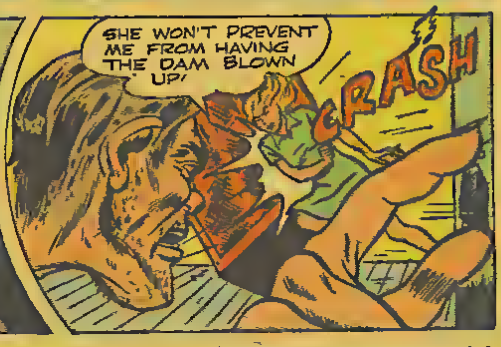

STOP THAT JUKE BOX!
GET THE KID AND THE GIRL!

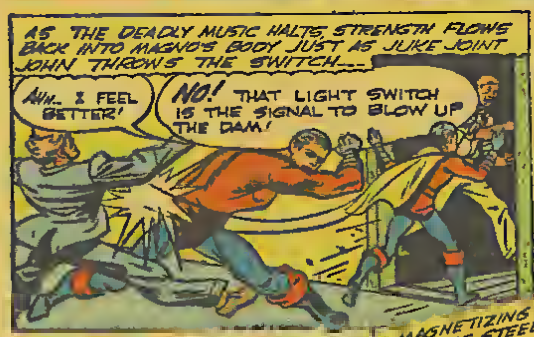

WHY JUST THE KID AND THE GIRL, DON'T YOU BOYS WANT TO PLAY WITH ME?
STOP THAT JUKE BOX, PLEASE... PLEASE!
SURE! AFTER WE POLISH OFF THIS GANG!

I...I'M GETTING D... DIZZY!
I'LL STOP IT MYSELF!


I'LL STOP IT! I MUST!
ARLENE... STAY AWAY... SO HELP ME... I'LL SHOOT YOU!

SHOOT ...AWAY!
BANG!
BANG

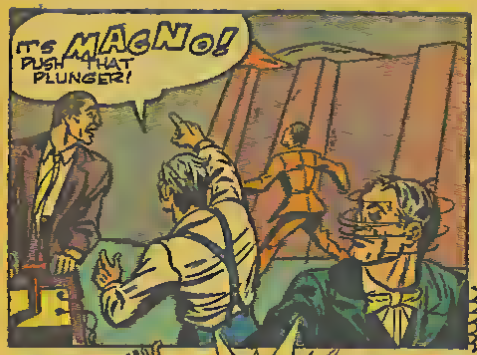

SHE WON'T PREVENT ME FROM HAVING THE DAM BLOWN UP!
CRASH

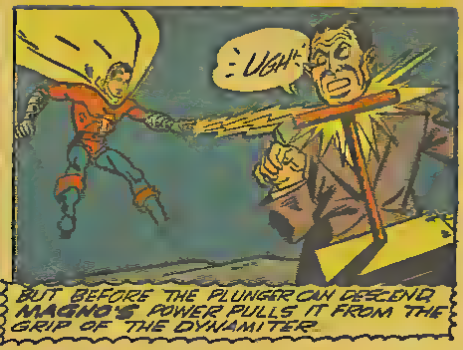

AS THE DEADLY MUSIC HALTS STRENGTH FLOWS BACK INTO MAGNO'S BODY JUST AS JUKE JOINT JOHN THROWS THE SWITCH....
AHH... I FEEL BETTER!
NO! THAT LIGHT SWITCH IS THE SIGNAL TO BLOW UP THE DAM!

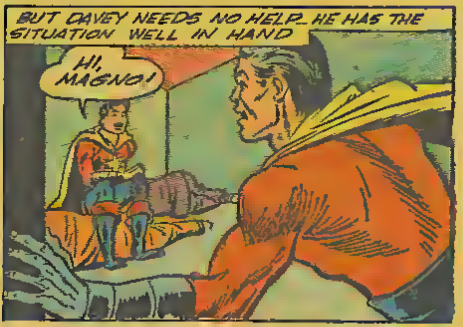
THERE'S THE SIGNAL!
OKAY! LET'S GET A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY AND GIVE IT THE BUSINESS!

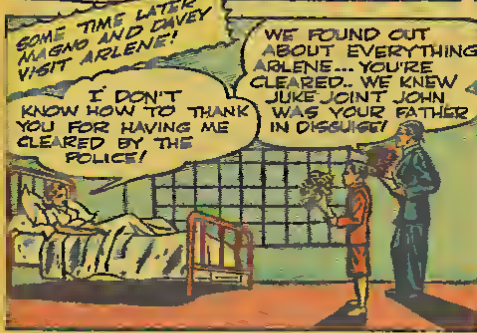
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT JOHN!
I ALREADY HAVE! YOU'RE TOO LATE! I'VE GIVEN THE SIGNAL!

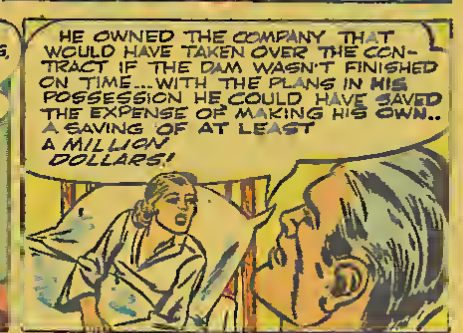
MAGNETIZING HIMSELF TO THE STEEL STRUCTURAL WORK IN THE DAM.. MAGNO HEADS FOR THE DYNAMITERS!
THAT KID!

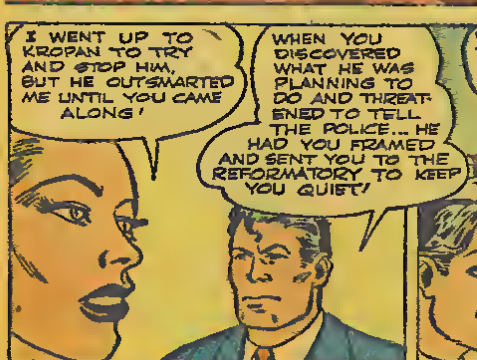


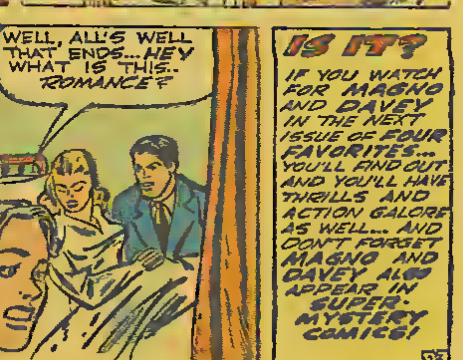












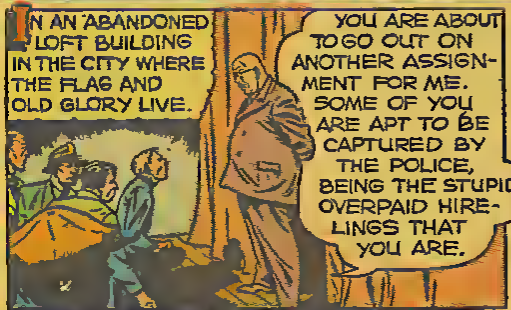
IS IT?

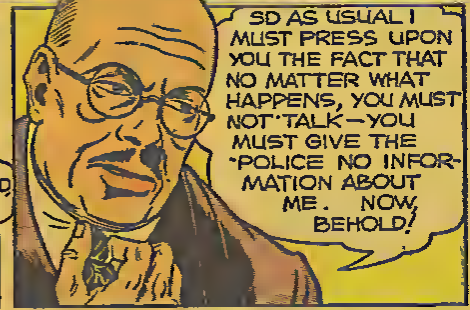
IF YOU WATCH FOR MAGNO AND DAVEY IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOUR FAVORITES... YOU'LL FIND OUT AND YOU'LL HAVE THRILLS AND ACTION GALORE AS WELL... AND DON'T FORGET MAGNO AND DAVEY ALSO APPEAR IN SUPER-MYSTERY COMICS!

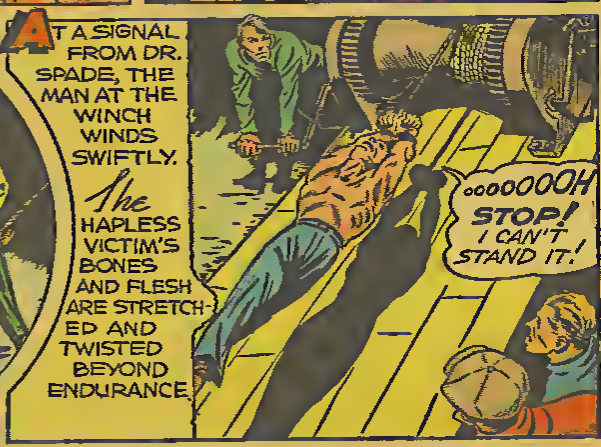
THE FLAG

JIM COURTNEY, ADOPTED SON OF JOHN COURTNEY, CRIPPLED WAR VETERAN, AND AN OLD FLAG-MAKER KNOWN AS "OLD GLORY," HAS THE STRENGTH OF A HUNDRED MEN AND THE SPEED OF THE WIND

Because HE GOES FORTH IN A RED, WHITE AND BLUE UNIFORM AND USES THESE POWERS TO FIGHT THE ENEMIES OF AMERICA, JIM HAS BECOME KNOWN AS ***THE FLAG.*** HE HAS KEPT HIS TRUE IDENTITY A SECRET FOR FEAR THAT IT MIGHT ENDANGER THE LIFE OF OLD GLORY, SO NONE BUT THESE TWO KNOW WHO THE FLAG REALLY IS.



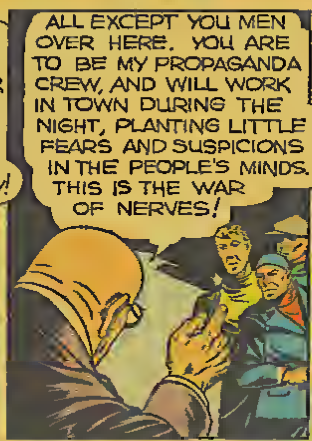


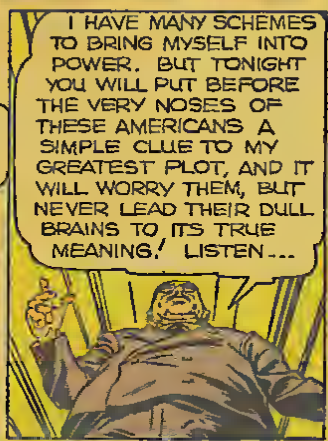


YOU SQUEALED AGAINST ME, NOW SQUEAL FOR ME!
SOCK!

I-I CAN'T LOOK! I'M GETTING SICK!
T-THEY COULD JAIL ME FOR LIFE, DR SPADE, AND I WOULDN'T SING ON YOU!

BAH! PIGEON-HEARTED WEAKLINGS! NOW LEAVE THE CITY AND PREPARE EVERYTHING FOR TOMORROW MORNING AS I HAVE TOLD YOU. HURRY!
Y-YES, DR SPADE


ALL EXCEPT YOU MEN OVER HERE. YOU ARE TO BE MY PROPAGANDA CREW, AND WILL WORK IN TOWN DURING THE NIGHT, PLANTING LITTLE FEARS AND SUSPICIONS IN THE PEOPLE'S MINDS. THIS IS THE WAR OF NERVES!


I HAVE MANY SCHEMES TO BRING MYSELF INTO POWER. BUT TONIGHT YOU WILL PUT BEFORE THE VERY NOSES OF THESE AMERICANS A SIMPLE CLUE TO MY GREATEST PLOT, AND IT WILL WORRY THEM, BUT NEVER LEAD THEIR DULL BRAINS TO ITS TRUE MEANING! LISTEN...

THAT NIGHT, WHILE THE CITY IS ASLEEP, SMALL TRUCKS CIRCULATE THROUGH BACK ALLEYS OF THE BUSINESS SECTION.

TWO EXPERIENCED BURGLARS MAKE THE CREW OF EACH TRUCK.

THE TRUCKS STOP ONLY AT GROCERY STORES. CARTONS ARE CARRIED IN, OTHERS ARE CARRIED OUT... THE CITY SLEEPS ON.

THE NEXT MORNING IN OLD GLORY'S SHOP...

THE FIRST TRAINLOAD OF DEFENSE WORKERS TO BUILD THE NEW ARMY BASE HERE IN TOWN ARE DUE TODAY, OLD GLORY.

THAT'S RIGHT. I'D PLUMB FORGOT. FIVE THOUSAND OF 'EM. LET'S GO DOWN TO THE DEPOT AND GIVE 'EM A CHEERING WELCOME, JIM!

IT MAKES ME PROUD TO THINK THEY PICKED OUR TOWN FOR THE NEW BASE

THEY COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A BETTER ONE. THE MAYOR'S FIXED UP A WHOLE TRAILER CAMP FOR THE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY'LL BE HAPPY HERE.

'MORNING, OLD GLORY. WAIT—I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU!

GOOD MORNING, HELEN. YOU LOOK A LITTLE WORRIED.

I JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS CAKE OF SOAP. IT HAS ME PUZZLED.

SOAP? WHAT'S PUZZLING ABOUT A CAKE OF SOAP?

HERE, JIM, READ WHAT'S STAMPED INTO IT

AMERICA IS NEXT!

SAY, THAT'S ODD! WONDER WHAT IT MEANS.

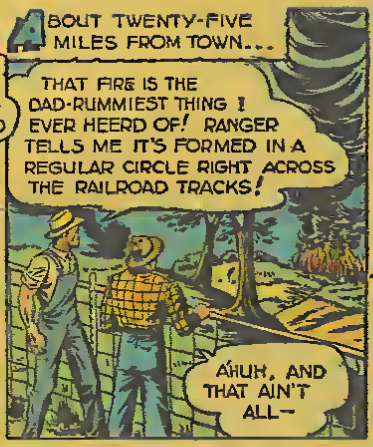
IT CAME WITH OUR GROCERIES THIS MORNING, AND OUR NEIGHBORS, THE RYANS, GOT ONE JUST LIKE IT!

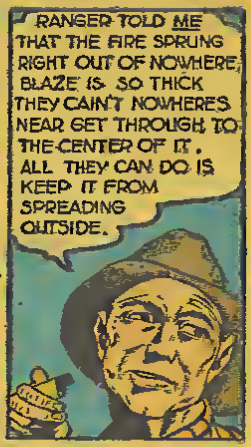
WELL IT'S JUST A GOOD PATRIOTIC IDEA THE SOAP PEOPLE HAD. IT-IT MEANS AMERICA IS THE NEXT GREAT CENTER OF COMMERCE AND WORLD CULTURE. FINE IDEA!

GOODBYE, HELEN. TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHAT OLD GLORY SAID!

IT COULD MEAN WHAT I SAID IT DID... AND THEN AGAIN I WONDER IF IT'S MEANT TO...

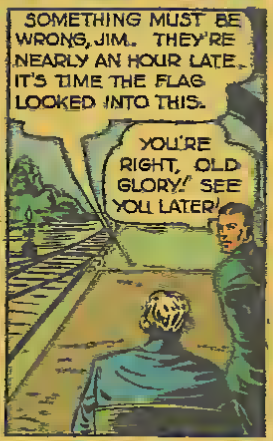
THAT SPECIAL DEFENSE WORKERS' TRAIN IS OVER A HALF HOUR LATE, JIM. THINK ANYTHING'S WRONG?
MIGHTY STRANGE! IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO THAT TRAIN...


ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE MILES FROM TOWN...
THAT FIRE IS THE DAD-RUMMIEST THING I EVER HEERD OF! RANGER TELLS ME IT'S FORMED IN A REGULAR CIRCLE RIGHT ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS!
A'HUH, AND THAT AIN'T ALL—


RANGER TOLD ME THAT THE FIRE SPRUNG RIGHT OUT OF NOWHERE, BLAZE IS SO THICK THEY CAIN'T NOWHERES NEAR GET THROUGH TO THE CENTER OF IT. ALL THEY CAN DO IS KEEP IT FROM SPREADING OUTSIDE.

WHILE UNKNOWN TO ANYONE OUTSIDE, IN THE CENTER OF THE CIRCULAR FOREST FIRE...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! I SEE THIS BIG BLAZE UP AHEAD AND STOP THE TRAIN, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN IT SWEEPS AROUND BEHIND US, TOO!
AND WE'RE HEMMED IN, TRAPPED!

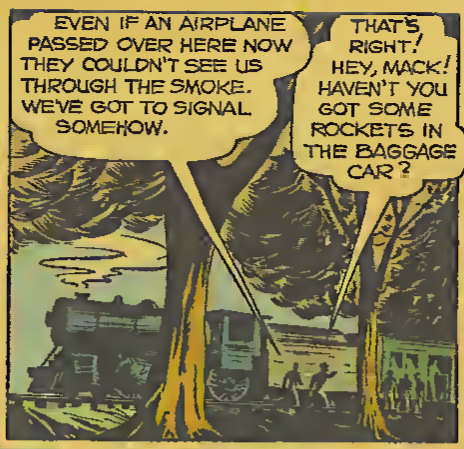

SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG, JIM. THEY'RE NEARLY AN HOUR LATE. IT'S TIME THE FLAG LOOKED INTO THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, OLD GLORY! SEE YOU LATER!

THIS CORNER OF THE BAGGAGE ROOM WILL DO FOR A QUICK CHANGE.

THEN, AS THE FLAG, JIM ZOOMS AWAY FROM THE RAILROAD STATION...

I'LL JUST FOLLOW ALONG THE RAILROAD AND— SAY, THERE'S A BIG FIRE RIGHT ACROSS THE TRACKS!

WHEW! NO SENSE IN GOING THROUGH THIS SMOKE FROM THE FIRE! I'LL SHOOT OVER IT AND COME DOWN TO THE TRACKS ON THE OTHER SIDE!


EVEN IF AN AIRPLANE PASSED OVER HERE NOW THEY COULDN'T SEE US THROUGH THE SMOKE. WE'VE GOT TO SIGNAL SOMEHOW.
THAT'S RIGHT! HEY, MACK! HAVEN'T YOU GOT SOME ROCKETS IN THE BAGGAGE CAR?

YEH! WE GOT A SHIPMENT SEALED UP FOR THE COAST GUARD.
BREAK IT OPEN! WE NEED IT WORSE THAN THEY DO!

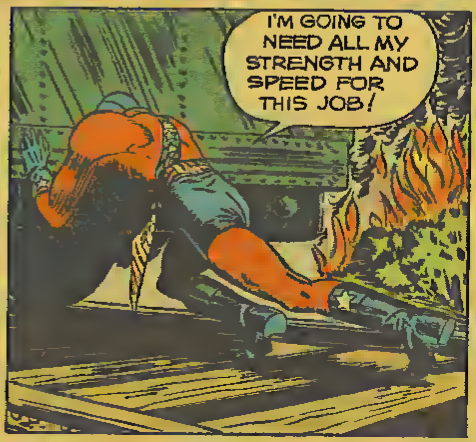
ROCKETS! SOMEONE SIGNALLING FOR HELP FROM INSIDE THAT FOREST FIRE!

SO THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORKERS' TRAIN!

AM I SEEING THINGS, OR IS THAT REALLY THE FLAG?
IN PERSON, MA'AM. I CAME TO SEE WHAT WAS HOLDING YOU UP. YOU'RE IN QUITE A SPOT HERE!

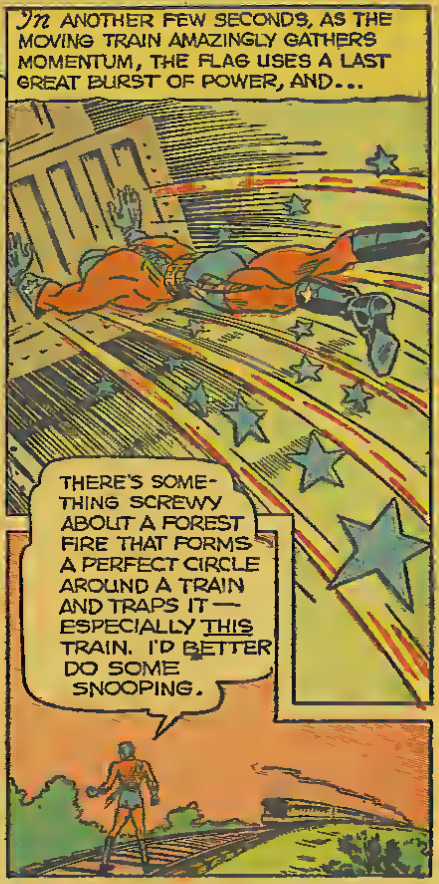
I'M AFRAID EVEN YOU CAN'T HELP US OUT OF THIS ONE, FLAG!
MAYBE NOT, BUT I HAVE AN IDEA THAT MIGHT WORK. GET EVERYONE BACK IN THE TRAIN

ON YOUR TOES, FOLKS, ALL ABOARD!


I'M GOING TO NEED ALL MY STRENGTH AND SPEED FOR THIS JOB!

AS THE FLAG STRAINS EVERY MUSCLE, THE GREAT WHEELS START TO RUMBLE, THE TRAIN MOVES-

WE'RE MOVING! WE'RE GOING FASTER AND FASTER!
MAY HEAVEN GIVE THE FLAG THE STRENGTH HE NEEDS!


IN ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, AS THE MOVING TRAIN AMAZINGLY GATHERS MOMENTUM, THE FLAG USES A LAST GREAT BURST OF POWER, AND...
THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY ABOUT A FOREST FIRE THAT FORMS A PERFECT CIRCLE AROUND A TRAIN AND TRAPS IT — ESPECIALLY THIS TRAIN. I'D BETTER DO SOME SNOOPING.

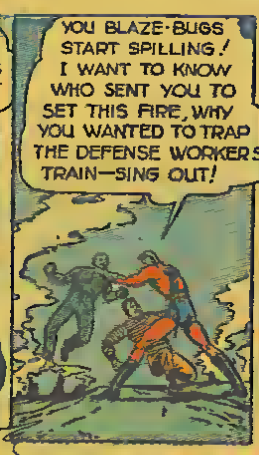
HE DID IT! THE FLAG BROUGHT US THROUGH THE FIRE SO FAST WE DIDN'T EVEN FEEL THE HEAT!

YES, YOU FOLKS CAN GO ON TO TOWN NOW, UNDER YOUR OWN STEAM.

JUST AS I THOUGHT! THESE ASHES STILL HAVE A STRONG SCENT OF KEROSENE ON THEM — THIS FIRE WAS MAN-MADE!
YOU'LL NEVER TELL THAT TO THE COPS, THOUGH, PALLY.
BANG

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CAN'T YOU AIM STRAIGHT? HE KEEPS ON COMING!
BANG!
BANG!

I THINK YOU'RE PART OF THE ARSON GANG THAT STARTED THIS FIRE, AND I WANT SOME SMART ANSWERS FROM YOU!


YOU BLAZE-BUGS START SPILLING! I WANT TO KNOW WHO SENT YOU TO SET THIS FIRE, WHY YOU WANTED TO TRAP THE DEFENSE WORKERS TRAIN—SING OUT!

WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! YOU COULDN'T MAKE US TALK IF YOU WERE A VENTRILOQUIST, SEE?

DO YOU ANSWER MY QUESTIONS, OR DO I DROP YOU INTO THE BIG BONFIRE OVER THERE?
WE DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'!

OKAY, THEN, HERE YOU GO!
EEEEEEK!

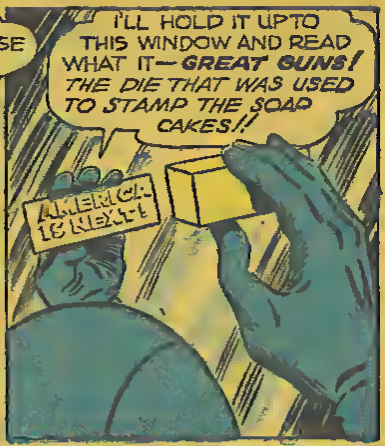
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE MORE CHANCE. THAT WAS JUST TO SHOW YOU I MEAN BUSINESS! SQUAWK, SQUIRTS, OR THE NEXT TIME I WON'T COME DOWN AND CATCH YOU!
I ST-STILL WON'T TALK!
ME NEITHER

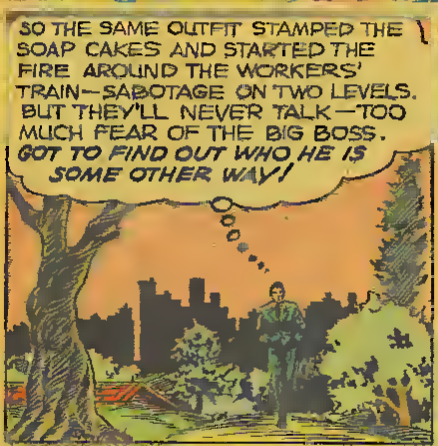
AFTER SEVERAL MORE ATTEMPTS ON THE THUGS FAIL...
NOTHING I CAN DO NOW BUT TURN YOU IN TO THE POLICE. YOU'LL GET A LONG STRETCH FOR THIS ARSON JOB!
NOTHING LIKE WE'D GET IF WE TALKED, THOUGH!

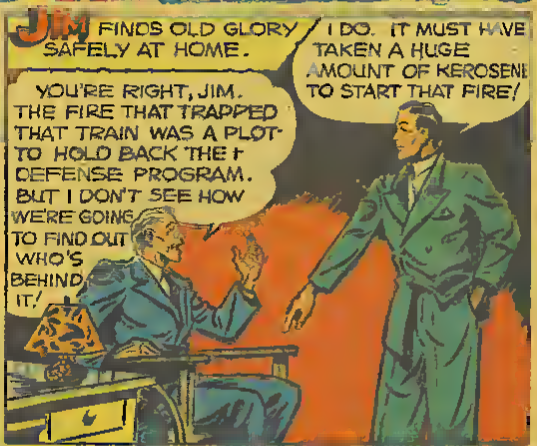
THANKS FOR TURNING IN THESE FIRE-BUGS, FLAG!
KEEP AN EYE ON THEM—THEY'RE TOUGH BABIES!

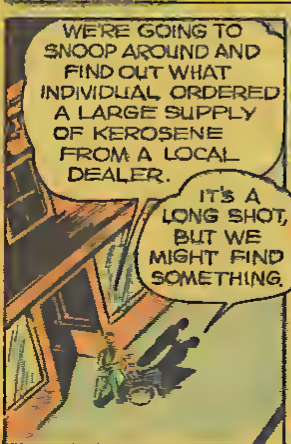
I'D BETTER USE THIS ALLEY TO SWITCH BACK TO BEING JIM COURTNEY AGAIN. GOT TO SEE THAT OLD GLORY GOT HOME SAFELY. HELLO! WHAT'S THIS?

IT'S A SLUG, OR DIE OF SOME SORT, WITH REVERSE LETTERING—MUST HAVE FALLEN FROM ONE OF THUGS' CLOTHING AND CAUGHT IN MY SASH!

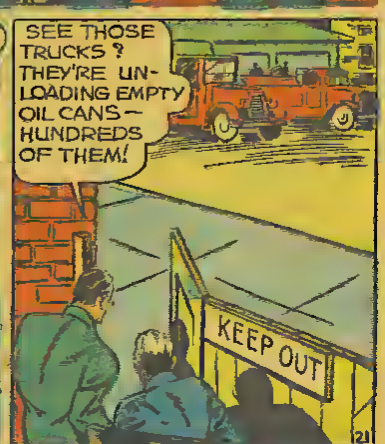

I'LL HOLD IT UPTO THIS WINDOW AND READ WHAT IT—GREAT GUNS! THE DIE THAT WAS USED TO STAMP THE SOAP CAKES!!
AMERICA-IS NEXT!


SO THE SAME OUTFIT STAMPED THE SOAP CAKES AND STARTED THE FIRE AROUND THE WORKERS' TRAIN—SABOTAGE ON TWO LEVELS. BUT THEY'LL NEVER TALK—TOO MUCH FEAR OF THE BIG BOSS. GOT TO FIND OUT WHO HE IS SOME OTHER WAY!


JIM FINDS OLD GLORY SAFELY AT HOME.
I DO. IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A HUGE AMOUNT OF KEROSENE TO START THAT FIRE!
YOU'RE RIGHT, JIM. THE FIRE THAT TRAPPED THAT TRAIN WAS A PLOT TO HOLD BACK THE DEFENSE PROGRAM. BUT I DON'T SEE HOW WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND IT!


WE'RE GOING TO SNOOP AROUND AND FIND OUT WHAT INDIVIDUAL ORDERED A LARGE SUPPLY OF KEROSENE FROM A LOCAL DEALER.
IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING.

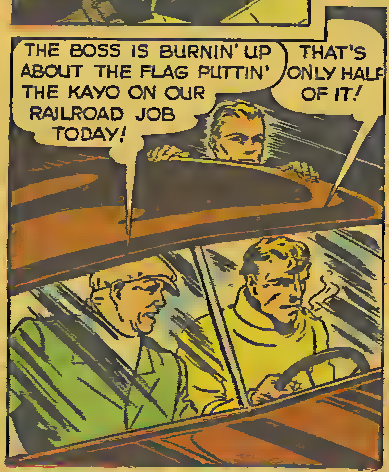
NOTHING HERE, EITHER, JIM. AND THIS IS THE LAST DEALER, WE'VE TRIED 'EM ALL.
OFFICE
WAIT A MINUTE, OLD GLORY!


SEE THOSE TRUCKS? THEY'RE UNLOADING EMPTY OIL CANS—HUNDREDS OF THEM!
KEEP OUT

THEY'RE LEAVING, AND I WANT TO SEE WHERE THEY GO. HEAD FOR HOME, OLD TIMER, SEE YOU LATER!

IF THIS TRUCK STAYS BEHIND THE OTHERS, I WON'T BE SEEN.

THEY'RE TURNING INTO THE WARE-HOUSE SECTION... MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS... I'LL KNOW PRETTY SOON...


THE BOSS IS BURNIN' UP ABOUT THE FLAG PUTTIN' THE KAYO ON OUR RAILROAD JOB TODAY!
THAT'S ONLY HALF OF IT!

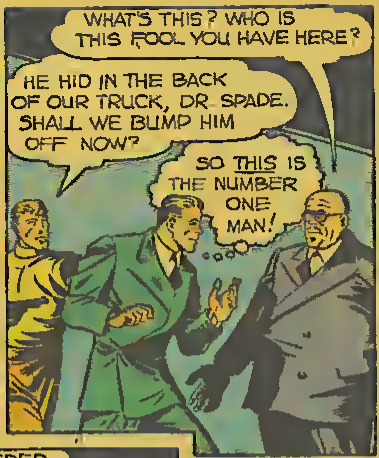
TH' BOSS TOLD ME THAT TH' FLAG IS GONNA BE DEAD AND BURIED EXACTLY TWO HOURS FROM NOW!

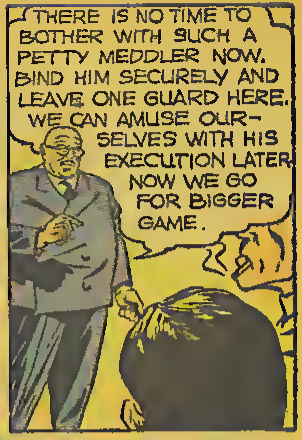
ALL OUT, YOU MUGS, THE BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU!
I'LL WAIT OUT HERE TILL THEY GO IN.

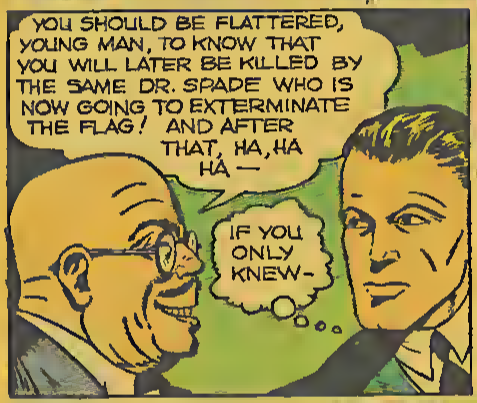
REACH, BUDDY! GET ON INSIDE!
A SNOOPER, EH?

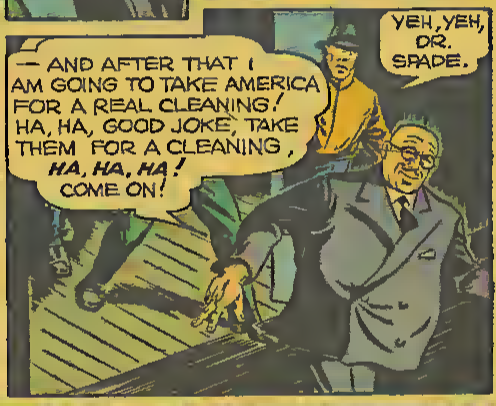
IN THE DOOR AND UPSTAIRS, CHUMP!
I'LL DO AS THEY SAY FOR NOW... OUGHT TO LEARN SOMETHING THIS TIME...

BOY! HOW I'D HATE TO BE IN THAT GUY'S SHOES!


WHAT'S THIS? WHO IS THIS FOOL YOU HAVE HERE?
HE HID IN THE BACK OF OUR TRUCK, DR. SPADE. SHALL WE BUMP HIM OFF NOW?
SO THIS IS THE NUMBER ONE MAN!


THERE IS NO TIME TO BOTHER WITH SUCH A PETTY MEDDLER NOW. BIND HIM SECURELY AND LEAVE ONE GUARD HERE. WE CAN AMUSE OURSELVES WITH HIS EXECUTION LATER. NOW WE GO FOR BIGGER GAME.

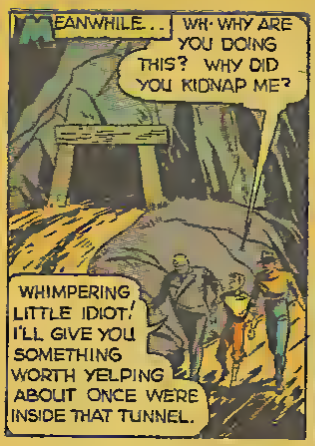

YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED, YOUNG MAN, TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL LATER BE KILLED BY THE SAME DR. SPADE WHO IS NOW GOING TO EXTERMINATE THE FLAG! AND AFTER THAT, HA, HA HA —
IF YOU ONLY KNEW—


— AND AFTER THAT I AM GOING TO TAKE AMERICA FOR A REAL CLEANING! HA, HA, GOOD JOKE, TAKE THEM FOR A CLEANING, HA, HA, HA! COME ON!
YEH, YEH, DR. SPADE.

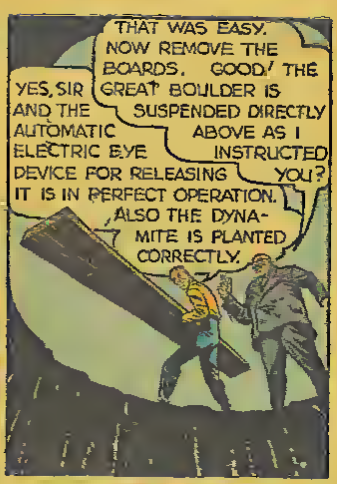
WHEN I MAKE A JOKE YOU MUST LAUGH, YOU HOUNDS!
THAT SURE IS FUNNY, DR. SPADE. HA, HA, HA!
YEH, I GET IT—THAT'S RICH! HA, HA!
SLAP!
SLAP!

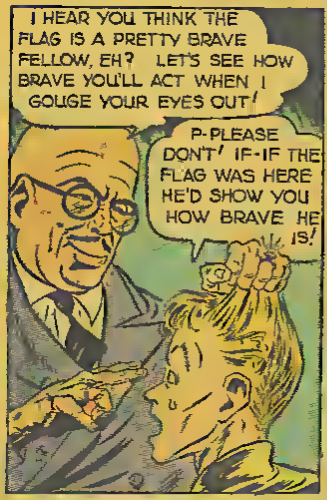
I COULD SNAP THESE BONDS LIKE THREAD IF THAT GUARD WASN'T HERE... CAN'T LET HIM KNOW I'M THE FLAG... MAYBE I CAN PUMP HIM A LITTLE.

WHAT WAS THAT GAG OF DR. SPADE'S ABOUT TAKING AMERICA FOR A CLEANING?
— KEEP YER TRAP SHUT, BUDDY—BUT I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH—THAT WASN'T NO GAG!


MEANWHILE...
WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY DID YOU KIDNAP ME?
WHIMPERING LITTLE IDIOT! I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING WORTH YELPING ABOUT ONCE WE'RE INSIDE THAT TUNNEL.

EVERYTHING IS READY?
YES, DR. SPADE BE CAREFUL COMING ACROSS THOSE BOARDS OVER THE OLD MINE SHAFT. IT GOES STRAIGHT DOWN FOR SIX HUNDRED FEET!

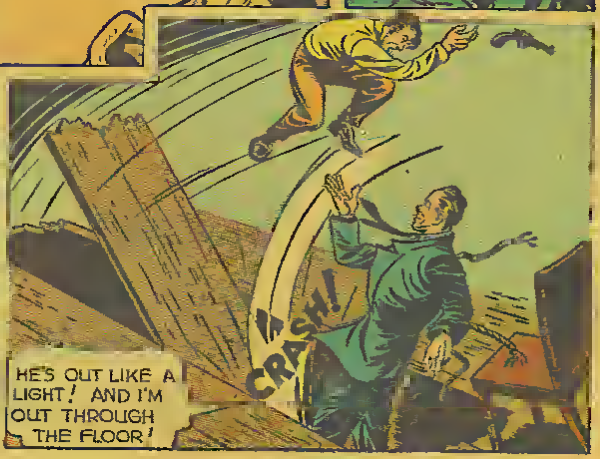

THAT WAS EASY. NOW REMOVE THE BOARDS. GOOD! THE GREAT BOULDER IS SUSPENDED DIRECTLY ABOVE AS I INSTRUCTED YOU?
YES, SIR AND THE AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC EYE DEVICE FOR RELEASING IT IS IN PERFECT OPERATION.
ALSO THE DYNAMITE IS PLANTED CORRECTLY.

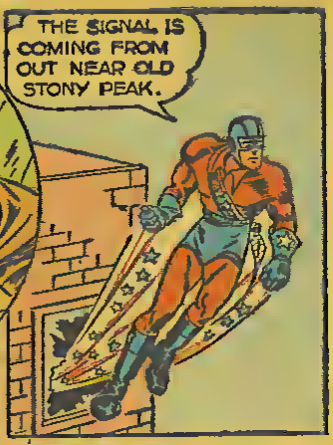

I HEAR YOU THINK THE FLAG IS A PRETTY BRAVE FELLOW, EH? LET'S SEE HOW BRAVE YOU'LL ACT WHEN I GOUGE YOUR EYES OUT!
P-PLEASE DON'T! IF-IF THE FLAG WAS HERE HE'D SHOW YOU HOW BRAVE HE IS!

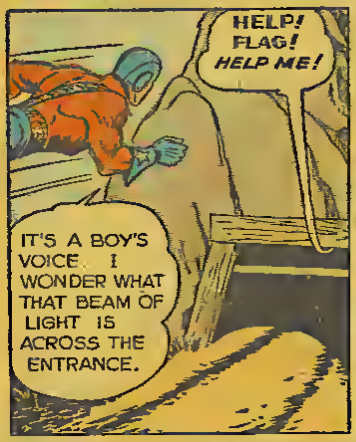
WELL, THEN YELL FOR THE FLAG! GET HIM HERE. I DARE YOU! GO AHEAD! CALL HIM!
HELP, MR. FLAG! I NEED YOU! HELP!

BACK IN DR. SPADE'S LOFT HIDEOUT...
SOMEONE IS IN TROUBLE! THEY'RE CALLING THE FLAG. NOW I'VE GOT TO GET OUT, GUARD OR NO GUARD!

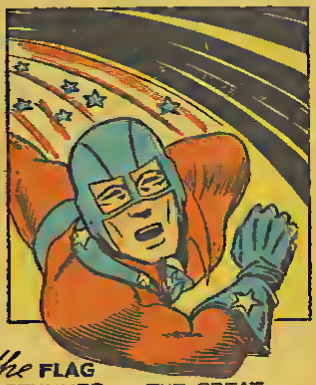
HE'S LOOKED AWAY FOR A SECOND. NOW IF I BRING MY FEET DOWN HARD ENOUGH...


CRASH!
HE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT! AND I'M OUT THROUGH THE FLOOR!



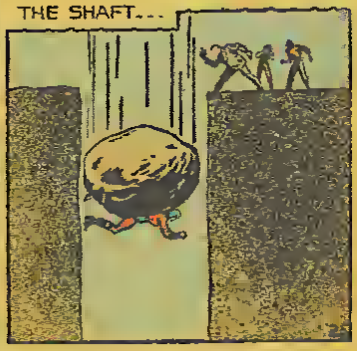


ENRAGED BY THE BRUTAL WORDS, FLAG ZOOMS THROUGH THE ENTRANCE, BREAKING THE ELECTRIC EYE BEAM...

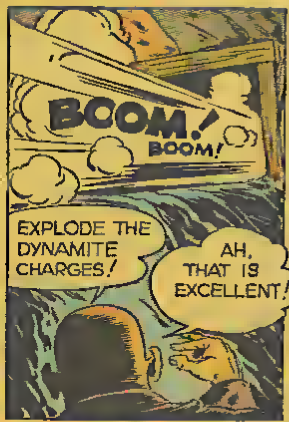


With PERFECT TIMING, THE MECHANISM RELEASES THE ENORMOUS BOULDER PRECISELY WHEN THE FLAG IS ABOVE THE MINE SHAFT.

The FLAG IS STUNNED... THE GREAT BOULDER HURTLES HIM DOWN THE SHAFT...



HURRY! WE MUST GET OUTSIDE AND FINISH THE JOB INSTANTLY!

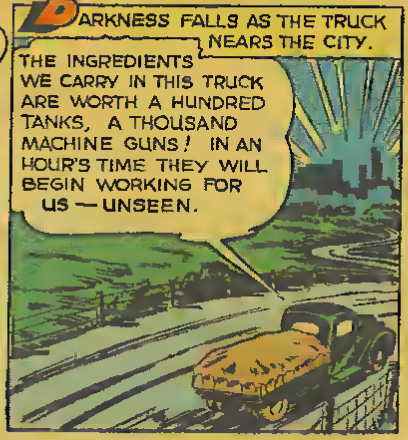

BOOM!
BOOM!
EXPLODE THE DYNAMITE CHARGES!
AH, THAT IS EXCELLENT!

THE DYNAMITE COLLAPSES THE SIDES OF THE SHAFT HURTLING COUNTLESS TONS OF ROCK TO THE BOTTOM

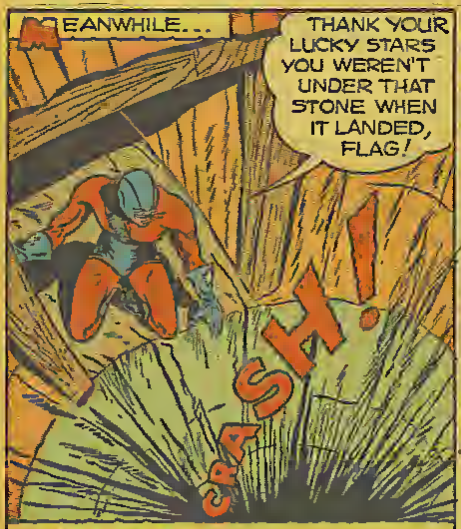
I HAVE SPARED YOUR LIFE SO THAT YOU MAY SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS THAT THE FLAG IS DEAD AND BURIED!

YOU DO NOT RIDE BACK— YOU WALK. IT IS ONLY TWENTY MILES TO TOWN! HA, HA!

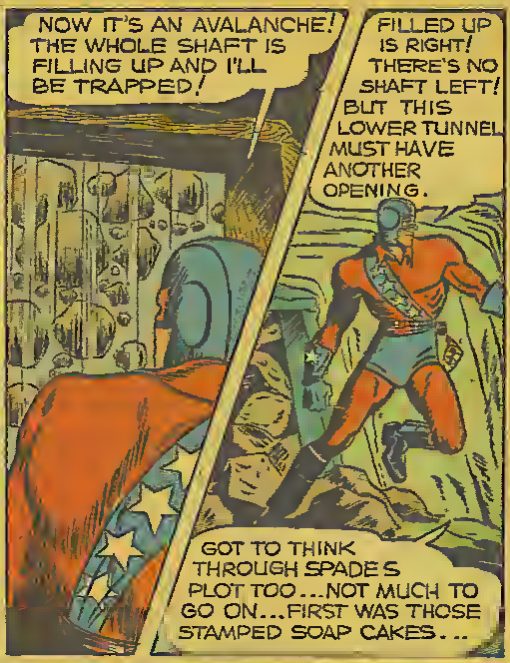
NOW I AM FREE TO CARRY OUT MY GREATEST SCHEME SOON NO ONE WILL DARE TO WORK IN A GOVERNMENT FACTORY!

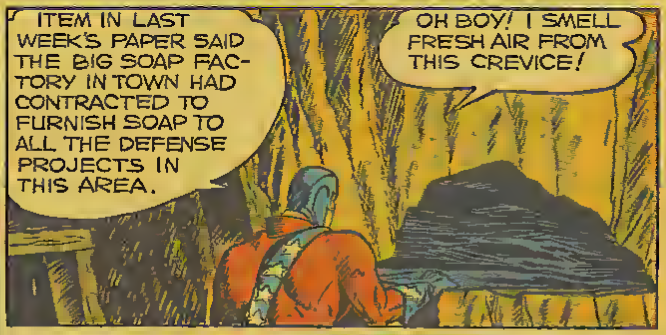

DARKNESS FALLS AS THE TRUCK NEARS THE CITY.
THE INGREDIENTS WE CARRY IN THIS TRUCK ARE WORTH A HUNDRED TANKS, A THOUSAND MACHINE GUNS! IN AN HOUR'S TIME THEY WILL BEGIN WORKING FOR US — UNSEEN.

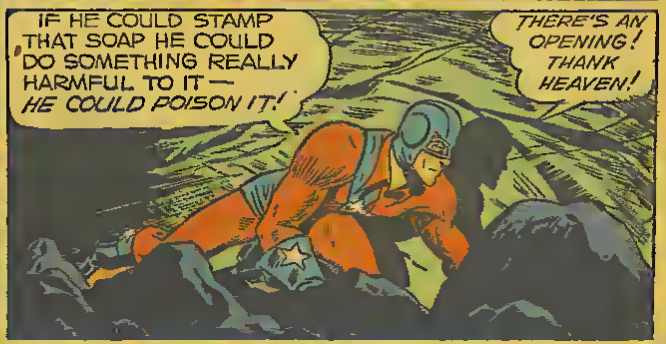
IT IS CONVENIENT TO KNOW A WATCHMAN WHO SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR CAUSE. AH, IT IS JUST THE APPOINTED TIME.
SOAP
ACTORY



THE FLAG COMES TO JUST IN TIME TO SPEED AWAY FROM THE BOULDER AND LEAP INTO THE SHELTER OF A LOWER TUNNEL LEADING FROM THE SHAFT.



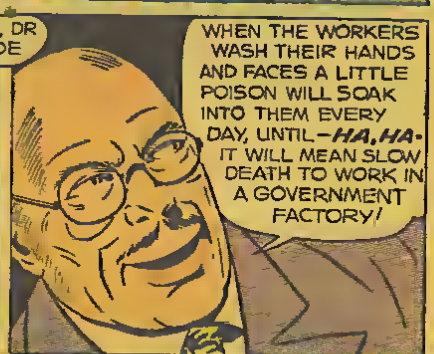




OUT AT LAST!
POISON SOAP FOR THE DEFENSE WORKERS — THAT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER! NOW TO GET GOING!

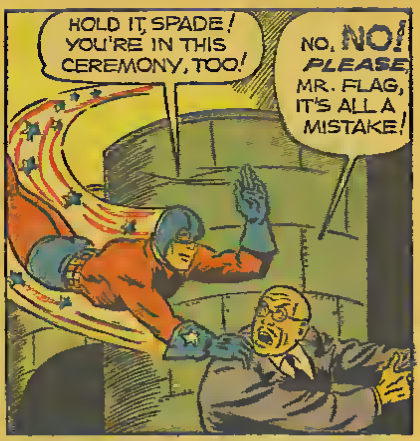
THEY'LL BE AT THE SOAP FACTORY NOW, AND THAT'S TWENTY MILES OFF!
THERE'S THE FACTORY! NO TIME TO LOSE!

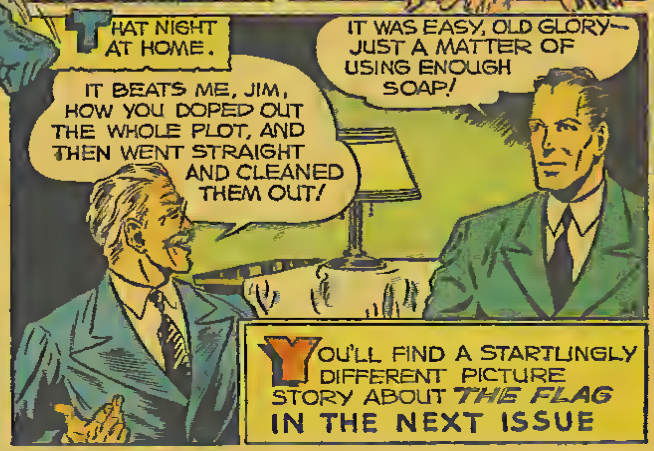
INSIDE...
HURRY AND FINISH POURING ACID INTO THOSE VATS!
YES, DR SPADE


WHEN THE WORKERS WASH THEIR HANDS AND FACES A LITTLE POISON WILL SOAK INTO THEM EVERY DAY, UNTIL—HA, HA—IT WILL MEAN SLOW DEATH TO WORK IN A GOVERNMENT FACTORY!

CLEVER PLOT, SPADE, BUT I'M STILL IN THE PICTURE!
THE FLAG!

YOU MIGHT AS WELL LET GO, KILLERS, THIS IS YOUR EXIT!
HELP, HELP! HELP!





YOU'LL FIND A STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT PICTURE STORY ABOUT *THE FLAG* IN THE NEXT ISSUE

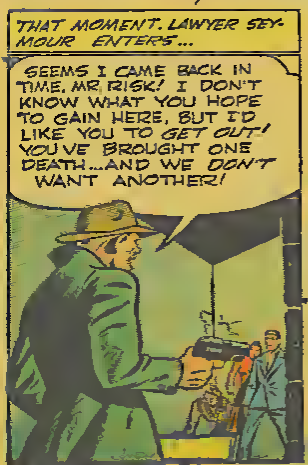
DEFTLY MR. RISK TOSSES THE BUTLER
OOOOFF!

BONG

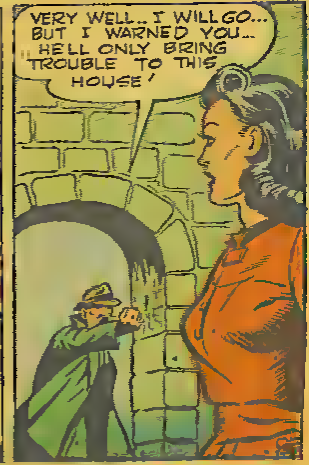
THIS WILL FINISH YOU, MR RISK!

YIPES!

AS IN THE ORIENT... WE PLACE THE KNIFE IN ITS SHEATH, THE WIELDER IN A RUG...


THAT MOMENT. LAWYER SEYMOUR ENTERS...
SEEMS I CAME BACK IN TIME, MR. RISK! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HOPE TO GAIN HERE, BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO GET OUT! YOU'VE BROUGHT ONE DEATH...AND WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER!

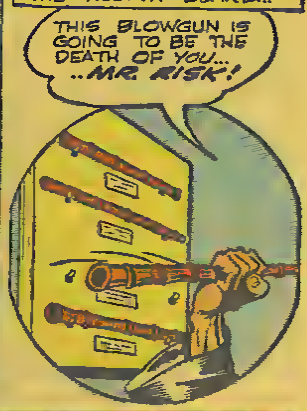
PUT AWAY THAT GUN MR SEYMOUR - MR RISK IS HERE TO HELP ME!

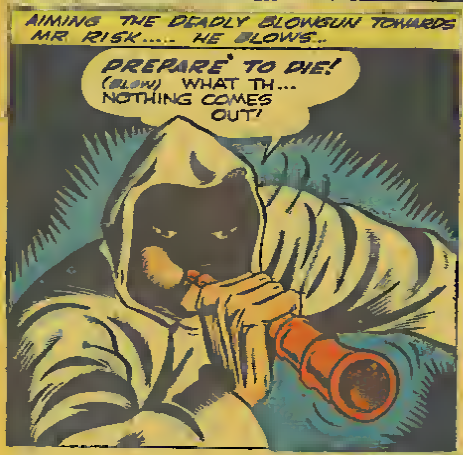

VERY WELL.. I WILL GO... BUT I WARNED YOU... HE'LL ONLY BRING TROUBLE TO THIS HOUSE!

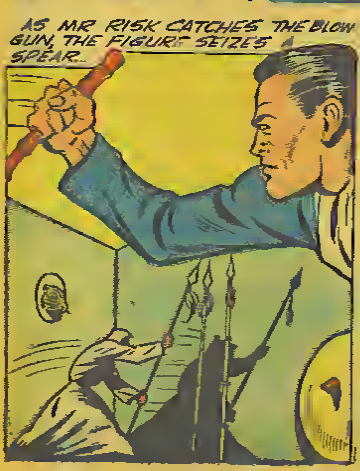
THAT NIGHT, WHILE THE OTHERS SLEEP ABOUL AND MR RISK STAND GUARD.. SUDDENLY MR RISK'S VOICE RINGS OUT
I JUST REMEMBERED! THERE MAY BE FINGER PRINTS ON THE MURDER KNIFE!
WHY IS MR RISK TALKING SO LOUD THAT ALL CAN HEAR HIM?
I'LL BE IN THE ARMOR ROOM WHERE THE HOUSEKEEPER'S BODY IS!
NOW TO TRAP THE KILLER!
A FEW MINUTES LATER.. A DARK FIGURE STEALS UP BEHIND MR RISK!
KNIFE'S JUST WHERE IT WAS LEFT... C'MON KILLER... I'M WAITIN'!
SUDDENLY.....
SLAP!
..AND THE FIGURE PICKS UP THE MURDER KNIFE AND POCKETS IT!
..THE FIGURE FLEES INTO THE AFRICAN TROPHY ROOM... WITH RISK IN HOT PURSUIT..
COME BACK HERE WITH THAT KNIFE.... YOU MURDERING THIEF!
TROPHY ROO
GRASPING A TASSEL FROM THE DRAPERY, RISK SWINGS ACROSS THE ROOM...
YOU'RE RUNNING INTO A DEAD END!

FIGHTING FOUL, EH?

SEIZING AN AFRICAN SHIELD, MR RISK WHIRLS ..AND..
BOOM


THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE PICKS A BLOWGUN OFF THE TROPHY BOARD..
THIS BLOWGUN IS GOING TO BE THE DEATH OF YOU... ..MR. RISK!


AIMING THE DEADLY BLOWGUN TOWARDS MR RISK..... HE BLOWS..
PREPARE TO DIE!
(BLOW) WHAT TH... NOTHING COMES OUT!

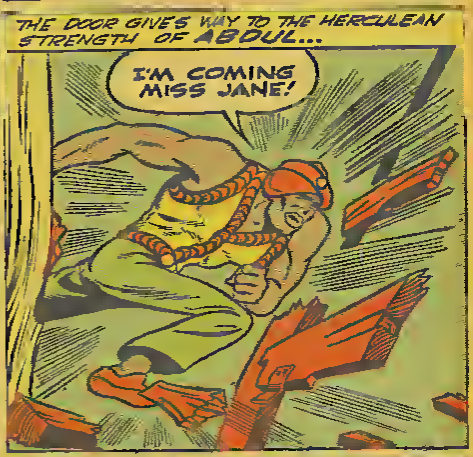

AS MR RISK CATCHES THE BLOW GUN, THE FIGURE SEIZES A SPEAR..

THIS TIME I WON'T MISS!

... AND THE SPEAR NAILS MR RISK TO THE WALL

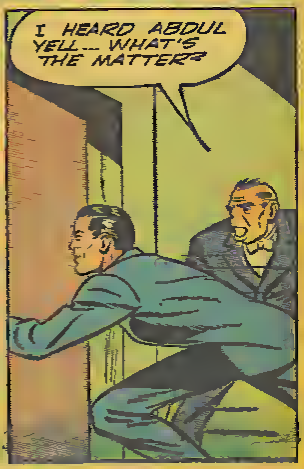
MEANWHILE IN JANE'S ROOM.. A SECRET PANEL OPENS AND A HUNCHBACK WALKS OVER TO THE SLEEPING GIRL...

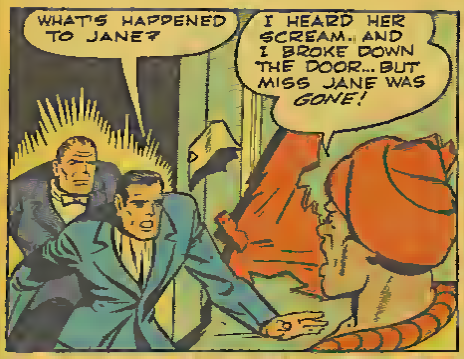
HELLLL-PP! HELL-L-LLLP!

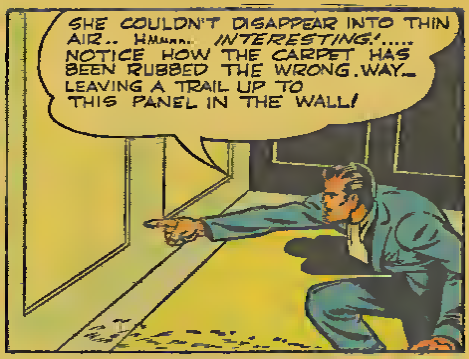

THE DOOR GIVES WAY TO THE HERCULEAN STRENGTH OF ABDUL...
I'M COMING MISS JANE!

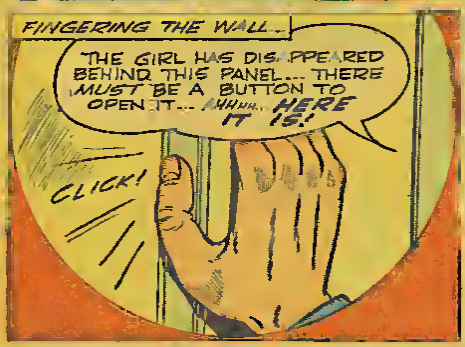
MISS JANE.. GONE! MASTER RISK! COME.. ABDUL NEED YOU!

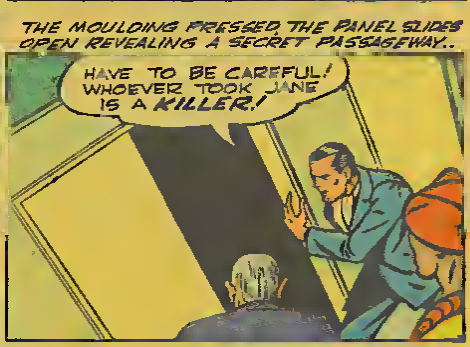
MEANWHILE IN THE TROPHY ROOM..
THAT WAS ABDUL'S VOICE FROM UPSTAIRS!

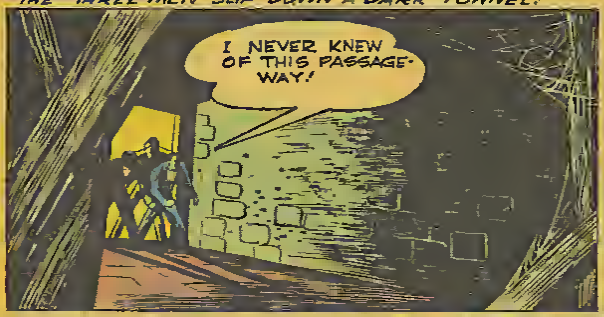

I HEARD ABDUL YELL... WHAT'S THE MATTER?


WHAT'S HAPPENED TO JANE?
I HEARD HER SCREAM.. AND I BROKE DOWN THE DOOR... BUT MISS JANE WAS GONE!

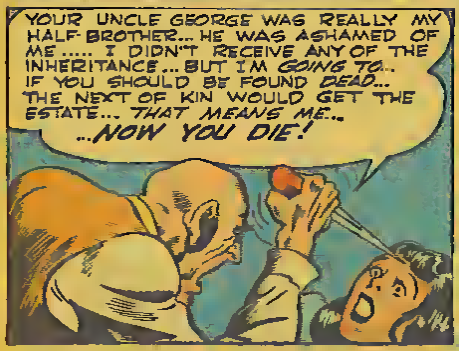

SHE COULDN'T DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR.. HMMMM.. INTERESTING!..... NOTICE HOW THE CARPET HAS BEEN RUBBED THE WRONG WAY... LEAVING A TRAIL UP TO THIS PANEL IN THE WALL!


FINGERING THE WALL..
THE GIRL HAS DISAPPEARED BEHIND THIS PANEL... THERE MUST BE A BUTTON TO OPEN IT... AHHHH.. HERE IT IS!
CLICK!


THE MOULDING PRESSED THE PANEL SLIDES OPEN REVEALING A SECRET PASSAGEWAY..
HAVE TO BE CAREFUL! WHOEVER TOOK JANE IS A KILLER!

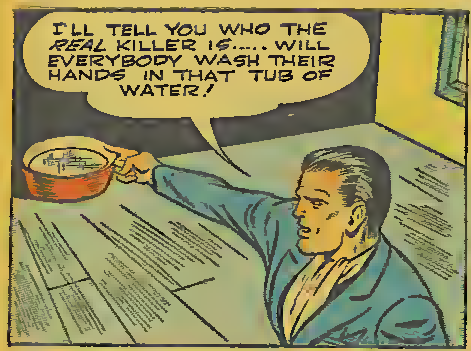

THE THREE MEN SLIP DOWN A DARK TUNNEL!
I NEVER KNEW OF THIS PASSAGE-WAY!

AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL...
SHHH LET'S GET NEARER SO WE CAN LISTEN!

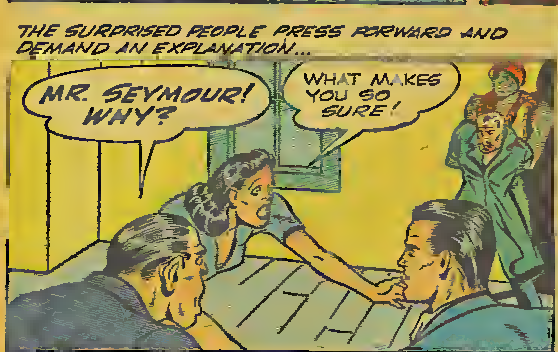

YOUR UNCLE GEORGE WAS REALLY MY HALF-BROTHER... HE WAS ASHAMED OF ME..... I DIDN'T RECEIVE ANY OF THE INHERITANCE... BUT I'M GOING TO... IF YOU SHOULD BE FOUND DEAD... THE NEXT OF KIN WOULD GET THE ESTATE... THAT MEANS ME...
...NOW YOU DIE!

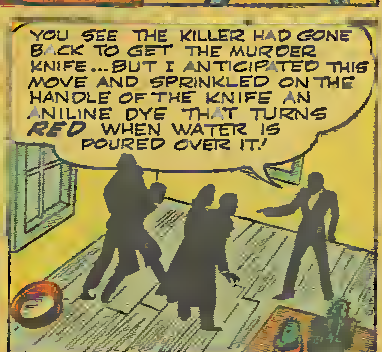
NOT TODAY!

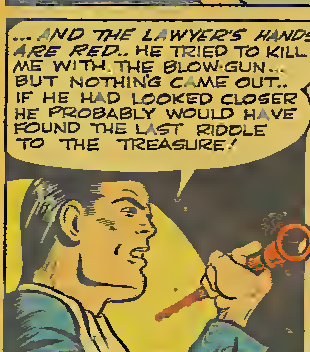
POW!
TICKLES!
BAM!
THAT MOMENT THE LAWYER RUSHES IN, EXCITED..
SO IT'S YOU AGAIN MR RISK... I KNEW YOU'D NEVER BRING ANYTHING BUT BAD LUCK TO THIS CASTLE!
WAIT A MINUTE, SIR! WE JUST FOUND OUT THE GARDENER IS A KILLER!
I'M SORRY TO DISAGREE WITH YOU!
ISN'T THE GARDENER THE KILLER?


I'LL TELL YOU WHO THE REAL KILLER IS..... WILL EVERYBODY WASH THEIR HANDS IN THAT TUB OF WATER!

EACH IN TURN WASH THEIR HANDS IN THE WATER...
THERE IS YOUR KILLER AND TREASURE HUNTER!


THE SURPRISED PEOPLE PRESS FORWARD AND DEMAND AN EXPLANATION...
MR. SEYMOUR! WHY?
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE!


YOU SEE THE KILLER HAD GONE BACK TO GET THE MURDER KNIFE...BUT I ANTICIPATED THIS MOVE AND SPRINKLED ON THE HANDLE OF THE KNIFE AN ANILINE DYE THAT TURNS RED WHEN WATER IS POURED OVER IT!

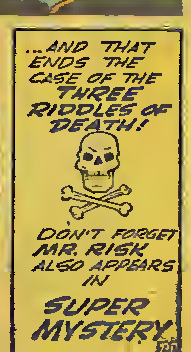

...AND THE LAWYER'S HANDS ARE RED.. HE TRIED TO KILL ME WITH THE BLOW-GUN... BUT NOTHING CAME OUT.. IF HE HAD LOOKED CLOSER HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE FOUND THE LAST RIDDLE TO THE TREASURE!

SEE? THE CLUE! THAT'S WHY THE DART DIDN'T COME OUT!
SNAP
UNDER THE GARDEN OF ROSES A RICH TREASURE REPOSES!

SHORTLY AFTER.. IN THE GARDEN AS THE BUTLER DIGS UP THE TREASURE..
HERE IT IS, MISS JANE.. THE TREASURE ...AND IT'S ALL YOURS!
NOT ALL MINE.. YOU HAVE EARNED A SHARE OF IT!

AS POLICE ARREST THE GARDENER AND LAWYER..
WELL THAT ABOUT CLEANS UP EVERY THING.. ER-- GOODBYE..
SINCE YOU WONT ACCEPT ANY MONEY

YOU'LL HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS!


...AND THAT ENDS THE CASE OF THE THREE RIDDLES OF DEATH!
DON'T FORGET MR. RISK ALSO APPEARS IN
SUPER MYSTERY

LASH LIGHTNING in the HANDSHAKE OF HORROR

JIM MOONEY

FROM THE CLAMMY SHADOWS OF THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, AND THE DUST OF A GLOOMY AND LONG-SEALED TOMB, STALKS AN INHUMAN FIEND, ONCE PRONOUNCED DEAD, TO SPREAD DOOM AND DESTRUCTION AS THE PURPLE HAND!.. IF YOU CAN STAND IT, READ WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THIS NIGHTMARISH GHOUL AND HIS CLUTCHING FINGERS GIVE THE HANDSHAKE OF HORROR!!!

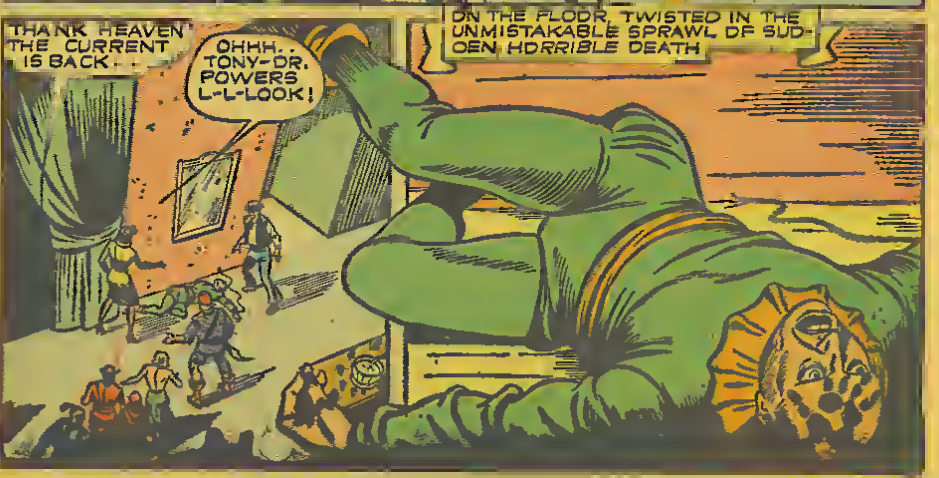
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
AS A GAG, THIS IS NOT FUNNY. PUT ON THE LIGHTS AGAIN BEFORE THERE'S A PANIC!

I-I HEAR THE W-WINDOW OPENING. SOMEBODY MUST BE COMING IN!
WHY DON'T THEY OD SOMETHING?

SUDDENLY THERE IS A WEIRD WHIRRING NOISE AND A FLASH OF GHASTLY LIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE THRONG. . . .
BUZZ
BZZZZ

HORRIFIED PANIC ENSUES. . .
LET ME OUT!
THAT TERRIBLE DOOR! I CAN'T STAND IT!

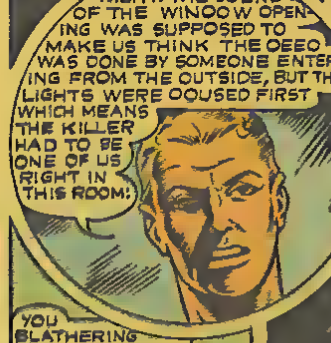
SOMEONE'S GOING TO BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH HERE. I'D BETTER FIND THE LIGHT SWITCH IN A HURRY.


THANK HEAVEN THE CURRENT IS BACK. . .
OHHH. . TONY-DR. POWERS L-L-LOOK!
ON THE FLOOR, TWISTED IN THE UNMISTAKABLE SPRAWL OF SUDDEN HORRIBLE DEATH

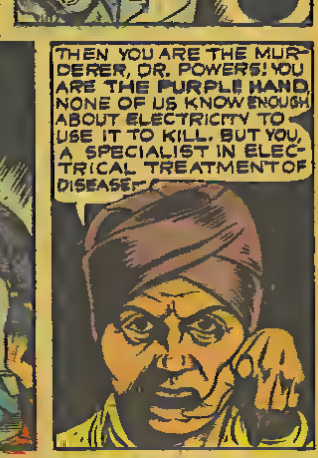
WHO IS IT, MR. DUMONT?
JUDGE WESTMORE. ONE OF MY GUESTS MURDERED IN MY OWN HOUSE! I-IT'S TERRIBLE!

THAT MARK ON HIS FACE, CLEO, IT-IT WAS ON THE BODY OF JUDGE STOCKTON, YESTERDAY. IT-IT'S THE PURPLE HAND!
RAY GRAHAM, HUSH, BEFORE YOU START ANOTHER PANIC!

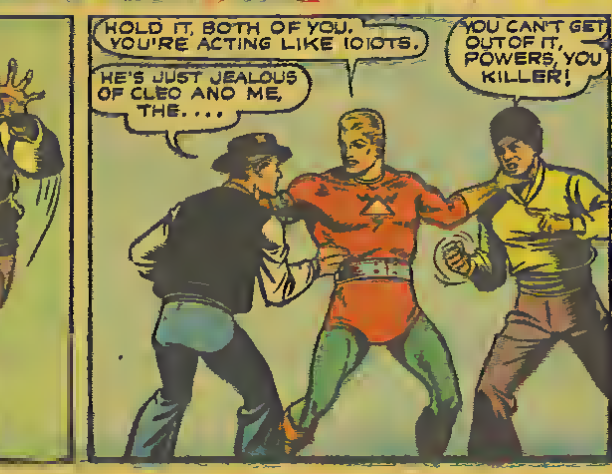
TERRIFIED, GIBBERISH WHISPERS AND SCREAMS SPREAD THROUGH THE ROOM. . . .
THE PURPLE HAND!
THE PURPLE HAND!
HE'S HERE AMONG US!!


YOU ARE RIGHT. THE SOUND OF THE WINDOW OPENING WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE US THINK THE DEED WAS DONE BY SOMEONE ENTERING FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT THE LIGHTS WERE DOUSED FIRST WHICH MEANS THE KILLER HAD TO BE ONE OF US RIGHT IN THIS ROOM!

HOW DID HE DIE, DR. POWERS?
ELECTROCUTED IN SOME MYSTERIOUS WAY, JUST AS JUDGE STOCKTON WAS LAST NIGHT.


THEN YOU ARE THE MURDERER, DR. POWERS! YOU ARE THE PURPLE HAND. NONE OF US KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ELECTRICITY TO USE IT TO KILL. BUT YOU, A SPECIALIST IN ELECTRICAL TREATMENT OF DISEASE!

YOU BLATHERING FOOL, HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE ME!


HOLD IT, BOTH OF YOU. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE IDIOTS.
HE'S JUST JEALOUS OF CLEO AND ME, THE. . . .
YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF IT, POWERS, YOU KILLER!

THESE MEN ARE RIVALS FOR THE HAND OF MY WARD, CLEO PRENTISS, LIGHTNING, PAY NO ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY SAY. THEY ARE UPSET BY THIS GHASTLY TRAGEDY

WHAT ABOUT THIS, LIGHTNING? IS IT THE MURDER WEAPON?
IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT THE JUICE FROM AN ORDINARY WALL SOCKET WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN

I'M DETECTIVE SERGEANT RILEY FROM HOMICIDE... SOMEBODY PHONED IN ABOUT A MURDER OUT HERE

NOW THAT THE POLICE ARE TAKING THINGS OVER, I'LL STEP OUTSIDE AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND!

LIGHTNING SEARCHES THE GROUNDS.
NO CLUES OUT HERE

SOMEONE'S HIDING OVER THERE..HEY!

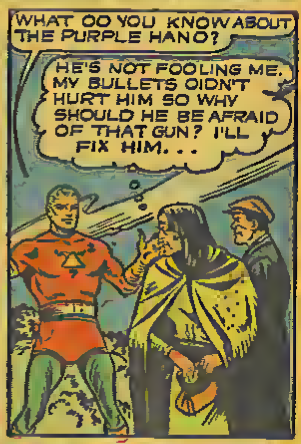
COME BACK! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
STOP CHASING ME, OR I'LL...

YOU WON'T CAPTURE ME!

LIGHTNING'S AURA OF ELECTRICAL FORCE PROTECTS HIM, AND. . . .
CUT THE GUN PLAY. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A NICE QUIET TALK
LET ME GO
ALL RIGHT, MAIZIE, I'VE GOT HIM COVERED. LET GO OF THE DAME, WISE GUY
GANGING UP ON ME, ARE YOU?

TALK FAST, HANDSOME. . WHAT'S GOING ON THERE IN DUMONT'S HOUSE?
I'LL STRING ALONG AND MAYBE THEY'LL GIVE THEIR ANGLE AWAY

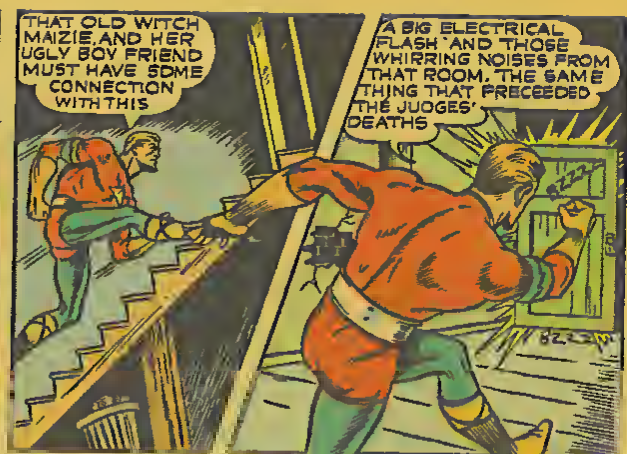
PRETENDING TO BE COWED BY THE GUN, LIGHTNING BRIEFLY TELLS ABOUT THE MURDER OF JUDGE WESTMORE, THEN. .
DID YOU HEAR, MAIZIE? THE PURPLE HAND GOT WESTMORE TOO. . TOLD YOU WHEN THE DEAD COME BACK TO LIFE-
SHUT UP! DO YOU WANT TO GIVE THINGS AWAY?


WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PURPLE HAND?
HE'S NOT FOOLING ME. MY BULLETS DIDN'T HURT HIM SO WHY SHOULD HE BE AFRAID OF THAT GUN? I'LL FIX HIM. . .

YOU IDIOT, STANDING THERE GABBING WITH THE GREAT LIGHTNING. . THIS CHLOROFORM WILL DO FOR HIM!

WE'LL TAKE HIM UP TO OUR PLACE WHERE HE'LL BE OUT OF THE WAY
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LIGHTNING BEING MIXED UP IN THIS

LIGHTNING REVIVES. . . .
SO THEY BROUGHT ME TO THE BASEMENT OF THIS OLD HOUSE. PERHAPS I'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY OF THE PURPLE HAND HERE

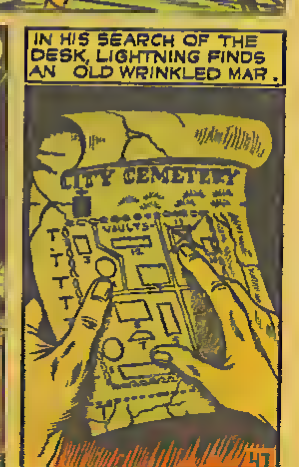

THAT OLD WITCH MAIZIE, AND HER UGLY BOY FRIEND MUST HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THIS
A BIG ELECTRICAL FLASH AND THOSE WHIRRING NOISES FROM THAT ROOM. THE SAME THING THAT PRECEEDED THE JUDGES' DEATHS
BZZZZ

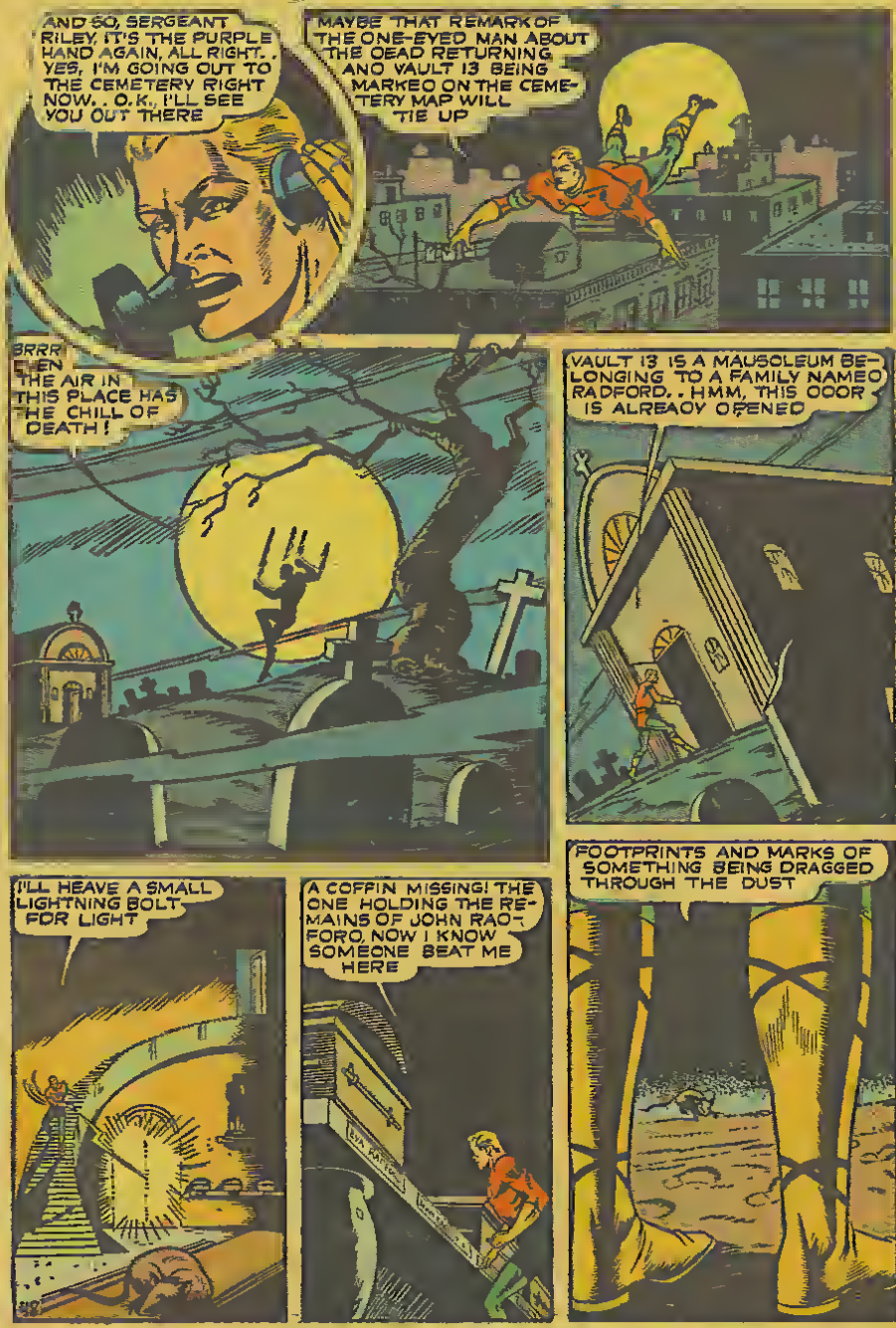
IF I CAN CATCH THE PURPLE HAND RIGHT IN THE ACT!

IT'S MAIZIE AND HER BOY FRIEND THIS TIME. THE KILLER ESCAPED OUT THE WINDOW

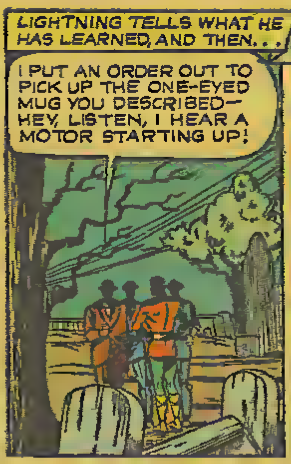
THIS CIGARETTE CASE LYING ON THE FLOOR IS DR. POWERS! MAYBE GRAHAM WAS RIGHT AND THE DOCTOR IS THE PURPLE HAND!

BUT THAT CIGARETTE CASE ISN'T SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CONVICT POWERS, AND THERE ARE TOO MANY OTHER ANGLES


IN HIS SEARCH OF THE DESK, LIGHTNING FINDS AN OLD WRINKLED MAP.
CITY CEMETERY
VAULTS


AND SO, SERGEANT RILEY, IT'S THE PURPLE HAND AGAIN, ALL RIGHT. . YES, I'M GOING OUT TO THE CEMETERY RIGHT NOW. . O.K., I'LL SEE YOU OUT THERE
MAYBE THAT REMARK OF THE ONE-EYED MAN ABOUT THE DEAD RETURNING AND VAULT 13 BEING MARKED ON THE CEMETERY MAP WILL TIE UP
BRRR EVEN THE AIR IN THIS PLACE HAS THE CHILL OF DEATH!
VAULT 13 IS A MAUSOLEUM BELONGING TO A FAMILY NAMED RADFORD. . HMM, THIS DOOR IS ALREADY OPENED
I'LL HEAVE A SMALL LIGHTNING BOLT FOR LIGHT
A COFFIN MISSING! THE ONE HOLDING THE REMAINS OF JOHN RADFORD. NOW I KNOW SOMEONE BEAT ME HERE
FOOTPRINTS AND MARKS OF SOMETHING BEING DRAGGED THROUGH THE DUST

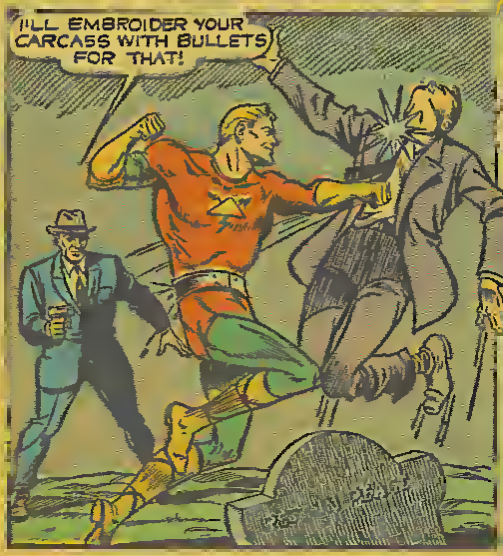
PERHAPS THEY HAVEN'T LEFT THE CEMETERY GROUNDS YET. THIS MUST BE RILEY AND THE POLICE


LIGHTNING TELLS WHAT HE HAS LEARNED, AND THEN...
I PUT AN ORDER OUT TO PICK UP THE ONE-EYED MUG YOU DESCRIBED— HEY, LISTEN, I HEAR A MOTOR STARTING UP!

IT'S THAT HEARSE...THEY MUST BE THE ONES WHO TOOK RADFORD'S CASKET

FROM A NEARBY TREE COMES A BURST OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE...
EYOW!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM. YOU AND THE BOYS CHASE THAT HEARSE. DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!
TAT TAT

OFF YOUR PERCH, VULTURES

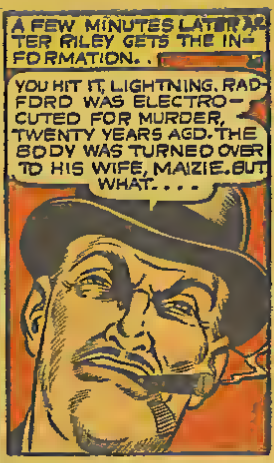

I'LL EMBROIDER YOUR CARCASS WITH BULLETS FOR THAT!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO NEED STITCHES
CRACK

ALL I KNOW IS, ME AND POICY WERE HIRED TO MAKE SURE NO ONE INTERFERED WITH THE ROBBING OF THE TOMB
I'LL JUST LOCK YOU TWO CHERUBS IN THERE FOR AWHILE
THEN LIGHTNING ZOOMS AFTER THE POLICE AND A FEW MILES AWAY SEES...
HOLD IT, RILEY. I'LL BREAK IN THERE FOR YOU
INSIDE THEY FIND...
TWO MORE VICTIMS OF THE PURPLE HAND... ANYHOW WE'VE GOT THE CASKET!
CHEE, I TAKE ME COD LIVER ERL EVERY DAY AND STILL I AIN'T AS STRONG AS HE IS!
THE PURPLE HAND MUST HAVE WANTED THIS BADLY. HE HIRED GHOULS TO STEAL THE THING FOR HIM BUT WE ARRIVED BEFORE HE COULD OPEN IT, SO HE KILLED THEM, AND BEAT IT
N-NO SKELETON!
AN OLD SACK FILLED WITH BRICKS

I CAN'T FIGURE THIS!
SOME OF IT'S BEGINNING TO FIT TOGETHER. THE EMPTY COFFIN INDICATES JOHN RADFORD MIGHT NOT EVEN BE DEAD!

CALL HEADQUARTERS SERGEANT, AND SEE IF ANYTHING ABOUT JOHN RADFORD IS IN THE RECORDS
OKAY, BUT NONE OF THIS MAKES SENSE TO ME

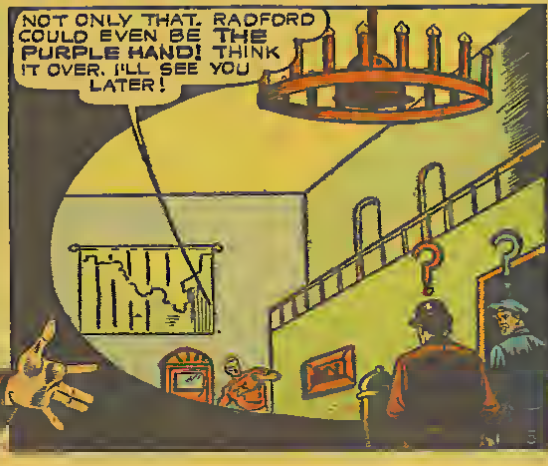

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AFTER RILEY GETS THE INFORMATION..
YOU HIT IT, LIGHTNING. RADFORD WAS ELECTROCUTED FOR MURDER, TWENTY YEARS AGO. THE BODY WAS TURNED OVER TO HIS WIFE, MAIZIE. BUT WHAT....

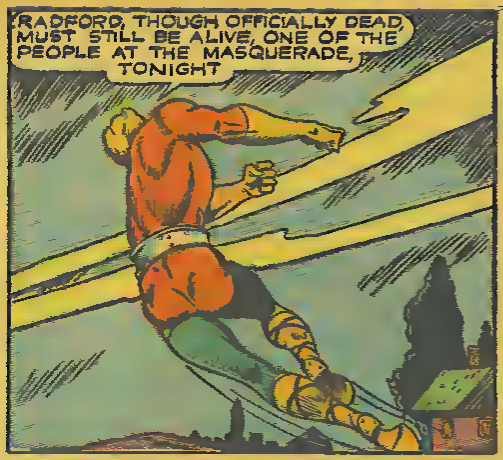
AND MAIZIE WAS THE DAME MURDERED BY THE PURPLE HAND. I'VE GOT A WILD HUNCH NOW, BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING IN IT
HUH? WHAT-WHAT IS IT?

THEY DIDN'T HAVE AUTOPSIES TWENTY YEARS AGO, DID THEY, RILEY?
NO, BUT...

SUPPOSE JOHN RADFORD LIVED THROUGH THE EXECUTION BECAUSE HE COULD STAND GREATER ELECTRICAL SHOCK THAN THE AVERAGE? SUPPOSE HIS WIFE, MAIZIE, HELPED HIM RECOVER AND THEN FAKED A FUNERAL?

YOU MEAN RADFORD THEN DISAPPEARED, CHANGED HIS IDENTITY AND STARTED A NEW LIFE? COULD BE, BUT...NAW!


NOT ONLY THAT. RADFORD COULD EVEN BE THE PURPLE HAND! THINK IT OVER. I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

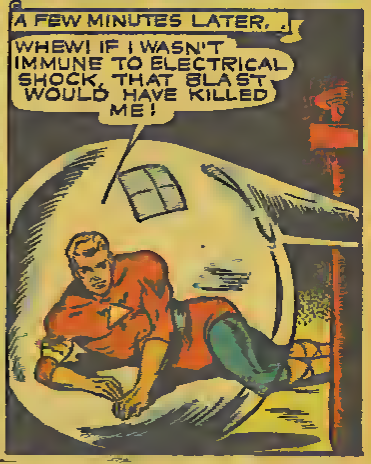

RADFORD, THOUGH OFFICIALLY DEAD, MUST STILL BE ALIVE, ONE OF THE PEOPLE AT THE MASQUERADE, TONIGHT

AND MUCH AS I'VE LEARNED TO LIKE DR. POWERS, THE LAST FEW WEEKS WORKING WITH HIM, HE IS THE OBVIOUS SUSPECT
L. M. POWERS M.D.

I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND HIS LABORATORY FOR FURTHER EVIDENCE

AS LIGHTNING MOVES THROUGH THE DARKNESS, WEIRD HANDS REACH OUT
THE LIGHT SWITCH IS RIGHT OVER HERE BY THE WALL

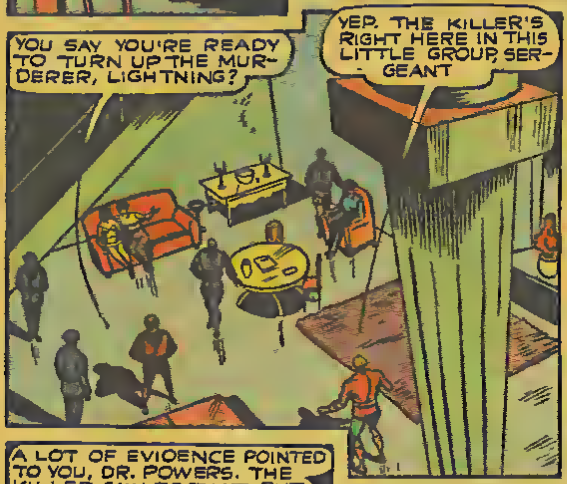
NOT EVEN YOU, LIGHTNING, CAN ESCAPE DEATH FROM THE PURPLE HAND. YOU HAVE LEARNED TOO MUCH. NOW YOU DIE!


A FEW MINUTES LATER...
WHEW! IF I WASN'T IMMUNE TO ELECTRICAL SHOCK, THAT BLAST WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!

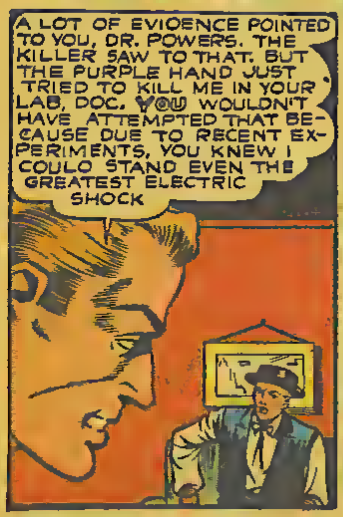
THE PURPLE HAND HAS FLED, THINKING ME DEAD, BUT HE DROPPED HIS MURDER GLOVE

MADE OF COPPER COIL TO CONDUCT ELECTRICITY, THIS IS WHAT CAUSES THE MARK OF THE PURPLE HAND

AND THIS ATTACK HERE IN DR. POWERS' HOUSE GIVES ME A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHO THE MURDERER IS. I'LL CALL SERGEANT RILEY AND HAVE HIM MEET ME AT DUMONT'S HOUSE

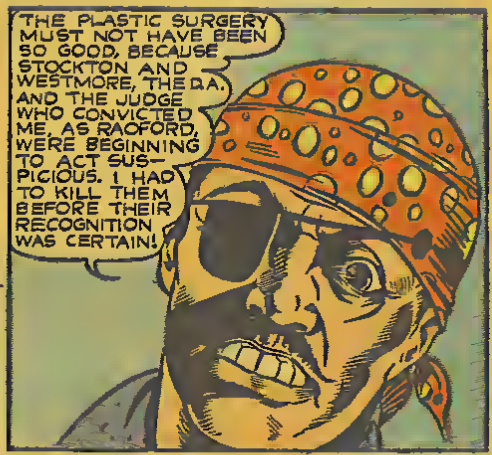

YOU SAY YOU'RE READY TO TURN UP THE MURDERER, LIGHTNING?
YEP. THE KILLER'S RIGHT HERE IN THIS LITTLE GROUP, SERGEANT

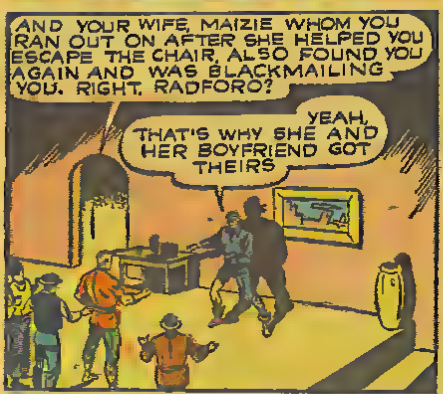
SERGEANT RILEY TOLD YOU MY THEORY ABOUT THE PURPLE HAND REALLY BEING RADFORD. WELL THAT PRETTY MUCH LETS YOU OUT, CLEO.

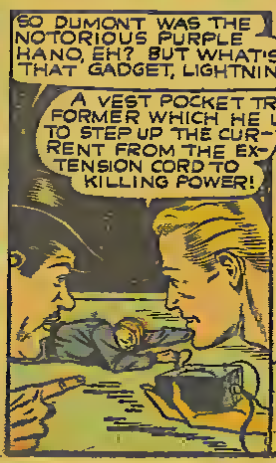

A LOT OF EVIDENCE POINTED TO YOU, DR. POWERS. THE KILLER SAW TO THAT. BUT THE PURPLE HAND JUST TRIED TO KILL ME IN YOUR LAB, DOC. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ATTEMPTED THAT BECAUSE DUE TO RECENT EXPERIMENTS, YOU KNEW I COULD STAND EVEN THE GREATEST ELECTRIC SHOCK

THAT LEAVES ONLY YOU TWO!
YOU-YOU CAN'T PIN THIS ON ME, LIGHTNING!

NOW, SERGEANT, LET ME HAVE RADFORD'S PHOTO, IT WILL TELL US WHICH ONE IS GUILTY
HUH?-WHAT?-OH-OH YEAH, HERE IT IS!
CLICK







LIGHTNING SMASHES THROUGH A THRILLER IN THE NEXT ISSUE THAT WILL MAKE YOUR BLOOD RUN COLD!
HE'S ALSO IN LIGHTNING COMICS!

The UNKNOWN SOLDIER

WHAT IS THIS DREAD UGLY CREEPING SLIME THAT EATS ALL LIVING MATTER.. DESTROYS THE POWER OF ALL METAL? WHO IS THE "MASTER OF THE GREEN SLIME" AND WHAT TERRIBLE FATE DOES HE HOLD FOR THOSE WHO CROSS HIS PATH? CAN EVEN THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER SOLVE THIS MYSTERY ON WHICH ... THE UNITED NATIONS' MASTERY OF THE SEVEN SEAS!

WRITHING AND STRUGGLING... WAYNE IS LIFTED BODILY INTO THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE!

TWIST AND SQUIRM AND FIGHT! YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE YOUR DOOM!

A SHORT WHILE LATER.. A BRAWNY FIGURE WALKS INTO THE CARNEY SHIPYARD!

H'YA WAYNE!

'S' MATTER WITH YOUR LEG, JIM?

SPRAINED IT A BIT!

AS "WAYNE'S" CANE TOUCHES THE GROUND.. HE LEAVES A TRAIail OF BUBBLING PILES OF RAPIDLY GROWING GREEN SLIME!

...INTO THE YARD RUN WAYNE'S BLIND DAUGHTER AND HER SEEING-EYE DOG REX!

POP! HEY POP! YOU TOOK YOUR LUNCH PAIL AND FORGOT YOUR LUNCH AGAIN!

DOWN REX! STOP!

DOWN.. GET THIS DOG AWAY FROM ME!

OW! OW!

KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? DOESN'T HE KNOW HIS OWN MASTER?

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU REX? STOP THAT SNARLING!

BETTER GET RID OF THAT DOG, JIM... HE'S DANGEROUS!

YEAH.... IT'S A GOOD IDEA!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, REX WHY DID YOU ATTACK POP?

MEANWHILE... THE GREEN SLIME SPREADS OBSCENELY... DEVOURING ALL ORGANIC MATTER IN ITS PATH!

UNAWARE OF THE DREAD GREEN SLIME... THE SHIPYARD STAYS AT ITS WORK!!.. UNTIL...

GOOD HEAVEN .. WHAT'S THIS?

PANIC! MARK THE WORKMEN-LEE TRYING IN VAIN TO BEAT THE LIFE EATING SPORES FROM THEIR PAIN-WRACKED BODIES!

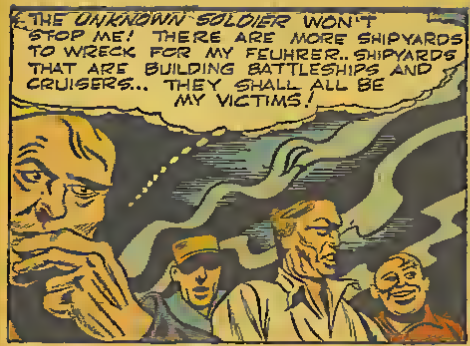
WHAT'S HAPPENING, REX! WHAT IS ALL THE NOISE? WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, REX?

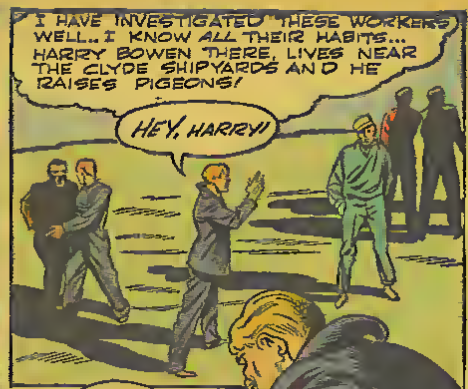
RARR-RR-URF

THE GREEN SLIME EATS ITS WAY INTO THE METAL OF THE SHIPS DESTROYING STEEL AS THOUGH IT WERE PAPER!

... UPON THIS SCENE OF CARNAGE AND HORROR FLASHES THE UN-KNOWN SOLDIER! WHERE HE COMES FROM AND WHO HE IS, NO ONE KNOWS.. THEY KNOW ONLY THAT WHEN DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES FACE THEIR DARKEST HOURS.. HE APPEARS TO LEND HIS STRENGTH TO THE SIDE OF JUSTICE!

OOH-- I'M FALL... OH...
EASY, KID! YOU AND YOUR PUP'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW!
SEEMS LIKE THAT GREEN SLIME CAN'T CROSS WATER.. YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE!
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER! HE'S COME TO HELP US!
THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER BENDS TO HIS TASK! BEFORE THE DREADED GREEN SLIME CAN FINISH ITS WORK HE RESCUES ALL POSSIBLE SURVIVORS!
LATER
IT'S OVER NOW.. THE GREEN SLIME KEEPS MOVING UNTIL IT HITS WATER.. WHERE IT BECOMES HARMLESS..
WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED IT?
THE MASTER OF THE GREEN SLIME CAUSED IT... BUT YOU FOOLS WILL NEVER KNOW THAT! NOW.. POSING AS WAYNE, THEIR UNION LEADER, I CAN LEAD THEM TO THEIR DOOM.. AS I WILL!
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN? WHAT ARE WE TO DO?
I'M GOING TO FIND OUT AND PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.. NOW IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU ALL GO TO YOUR HOMES!
ALL YOU MEN HAVE GUNS! IF ANY THING SUSPICIOUS HAPPENS.. FIRE THOSE GUNS THREE TIMES... ...I'LL COME ON THE RUN!

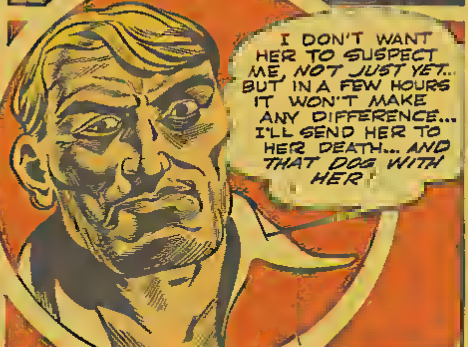

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WON'T STOP ME! THERE ARE MORE SHIPYARDS TO WRECK FOR MY FEUHRER.. SHIPYARDS THAT ARE BUILDING BATTLESHIPS AND CRUISERS... THEY SHALL ALL BE MY VICTIMS!


I HAVE INVESTIGATED THESE WORKERS WELL.. I KNOW ALL THEIR HABITS... HARRY BOWEN THERE, LIVES NEAR THE CLYDE SHIPYARDS AND HE RAISES PIGEONS!
HEY, HARRY!

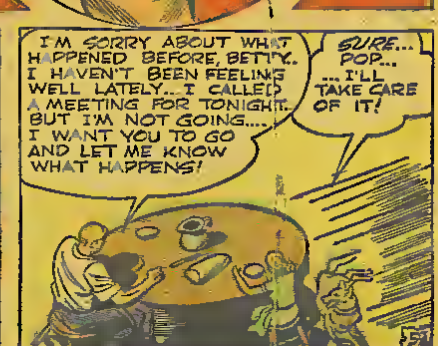
IN CASE OF TROUBLE I MIGHT WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO YOU HARRY... BRING ONE OF YOUR PIGEONS OVER TO MY HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON!
GOOD IDEA! SO LONG FOR NOW!

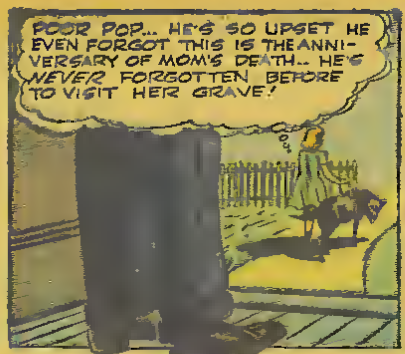
DOWN.. REX!
SO HELP ME! ... I'LL SHOOT THAT MUTT!

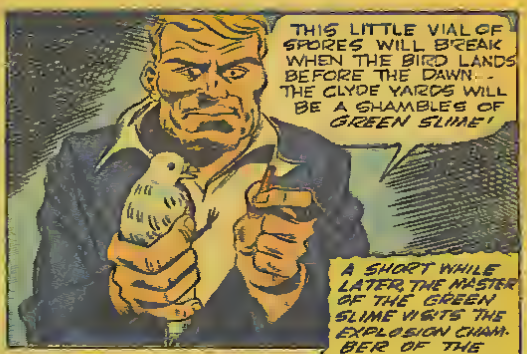
NO! FATHER, DON'T! WHAT'S COME OVER HIM, FATHER? ...WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ALL OF US?
GET UP TO YOUR ROOM AND TAKE THAT MUTT WITH YOU!


I DON'T WANT HER TO SUSPECT ME, NOT JUST YET.. BUT IN A FEW HOURS IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE... I'LL SEND HER TO HER DEATH... AND THAT DOG WITH HER!

I'M CALLING A UNION MEETING TO-NIGHT AT THE CLYDE YARDS... GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BOYS FROM CARNEY AND CLYDE... HAVE THEM ALL THERE...
RIGHT, JIM!


I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, BETTY. I HAVEN'T BEEN FEELING WELL LATELY... I CALLED A MEETING FOR TONIGHT. BUT I'M NOT GOING.... I WANT YOU TO GO AND LET ME KNOW WHAT HAPPENS!
SURE... POP... ... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!


POOR POP... HE'S SO UPSET HE EVEN FORGOT THIS IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF MOM'S DEATH... HE'S NEVER FORGOTTEN BEFORE TO VISIT HER GRAVE!


THIS LITTLE VIAL OF SPORES WILL BREAK WHEN THE BIRD LANDS BEFORE THE DAWN... THE CLYDE YARDS WILL BE A SHAMBLES OF GREEN SLIME!

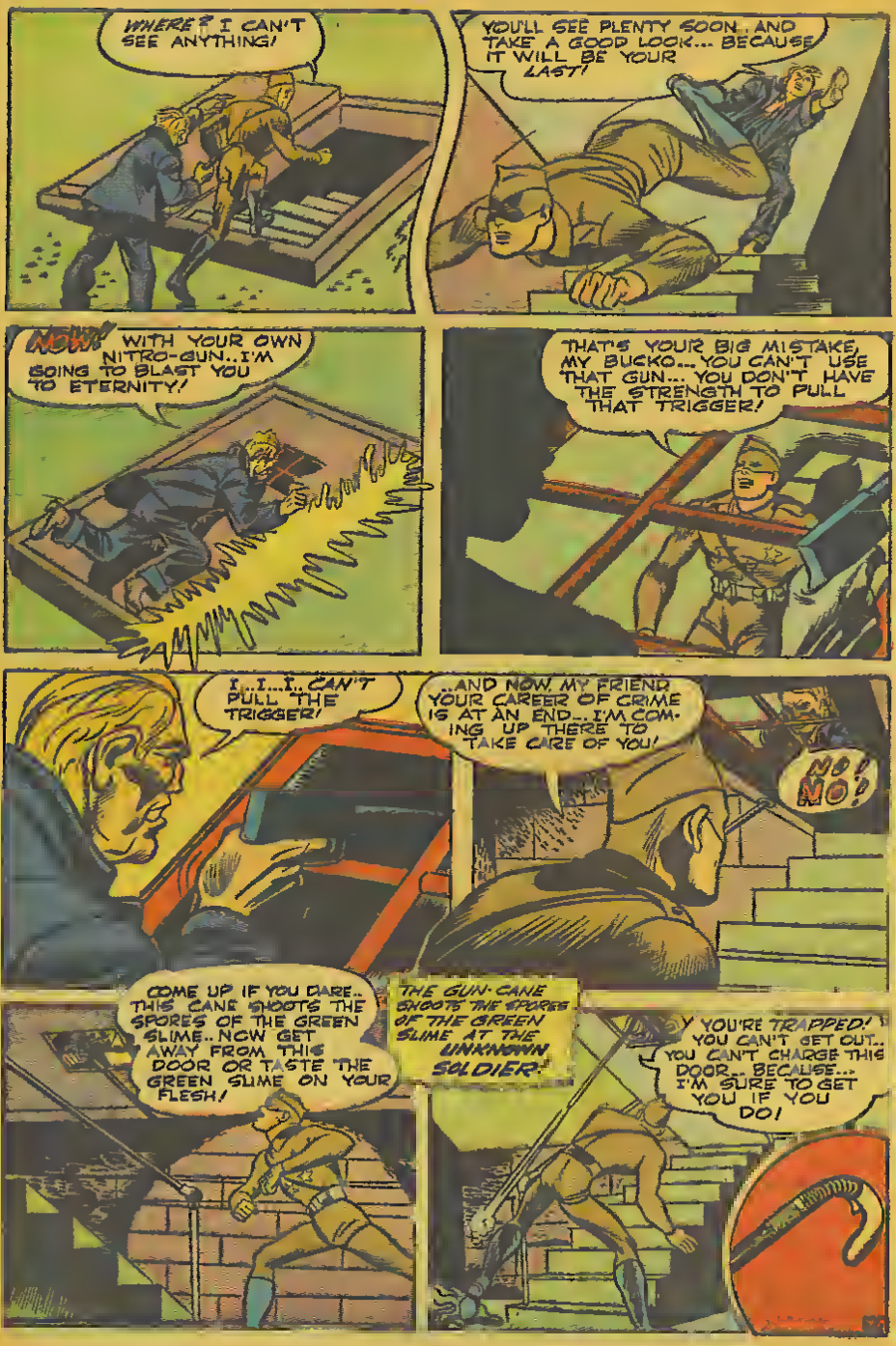
FLY STRAIGHT TO YOUR HOME, LITTLE HARBINGER OF DOOM! CARRY DEATH TO ALL ENEMIES OF THE AXIS! AND NOW I SHALL TAKE CARE OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, PERSONALLY!

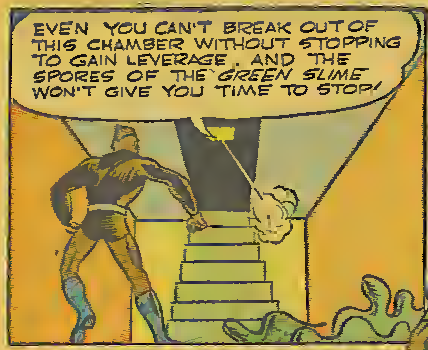
THE INNOCENT MESSENGER OF DOOM FLIES STRAIGHT TO ITS COOP NEAR THE CLYDE SHIP YARDS!

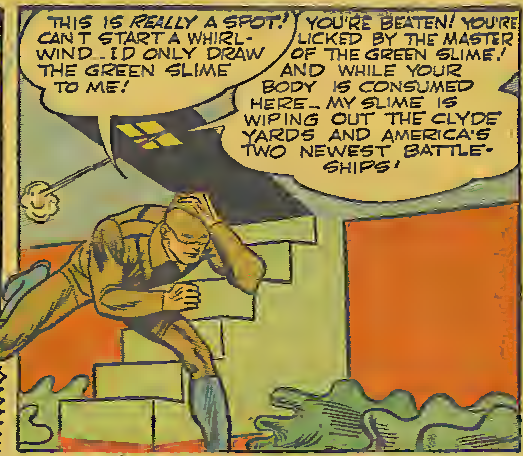
A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE MASTER OF THE GREEN SLIME VISITS THE EXPLOSION CHAMBER OF THE DEVASTATED CARNEY SHIPYARDS
AH! THIS IS GOOD. THE OUTER CONCRETE DOOR KEPT THIS CHAMBER PROTECTED!

IF THESE WALLS CAN STAND THE PRESSURE OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS.. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE POWER OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER... AT LEAST TEMPORARILY!
RAP-RAP
THAT'S MY SIGNAL! MUST BE TROUBLE DOWN THERE!

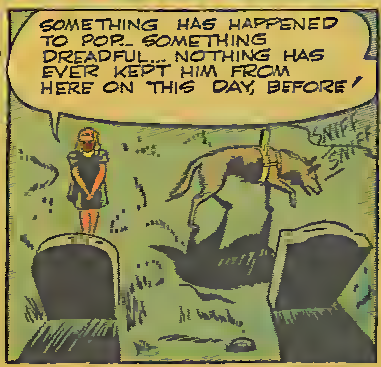
BANG
BANG!
BANG!
HE SAID THIS WOULD BRING HIM!
DOWNSTAIRS! THERE'S SOMETHING QUEER GOING ON IN THERE!

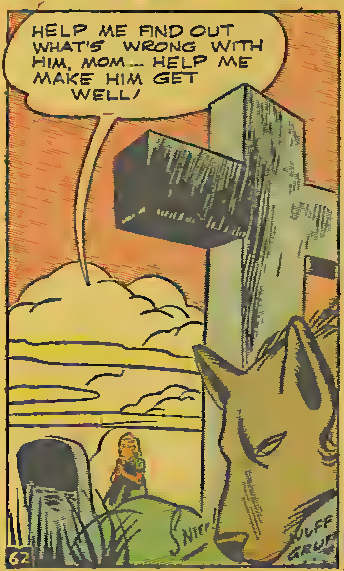

WHERE? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!
YOU'LL SEE PLENTY SOON.. AND TAKE A GOOD LOOK... BECAUSE IT WILL BE YOUR LAST!
NOW! WITH YOUR OWN NITRO-GUN.. I'M GOING TO BLAST YOU TO ETERNITY!
THAT'S YOUR BIG MISTAKE, MY BUCKO... YOU CAN'T USE THAT GUN... YOU DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PULL THAT TRIGGER!
I...I...I.. CAN'T PULL THE TRIGGER!
..AND NOW, MY FRIEND YOUR CAREER OF CRIME IS AT AN END.. I'M COMING UP THERE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU!
NO! NO!
COME UP IF YOU DARE.. THIS CANE SHOOTS THE SPORES OF THE GREEN SLIME.. NOW GET AWAY FROM THIS DOOR OR TASTE THE GREEN SLIME ON YOUR FLESH!
THE GUN-CANE SHOOTS THE SPORES OF THE GREEN SLIME AT THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!
YOU'RE TRAPPED! YOU CAN'T GET OUT.. YOU CAN'T CHARGE THIS DOOR.. BECAUSE... I'M SURE TO GET YOU IF YOU DO!

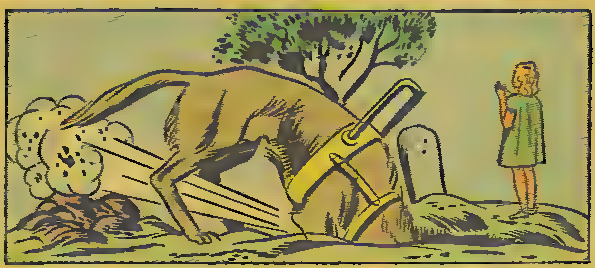


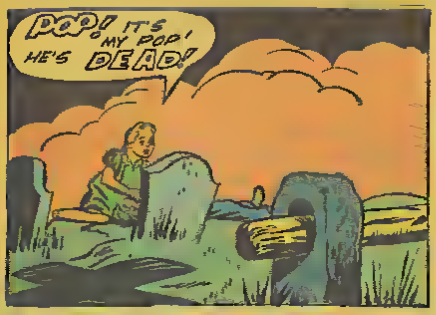


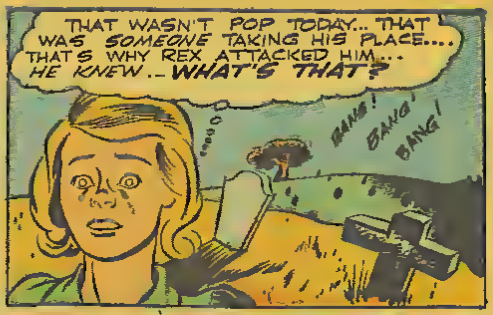
WHERE IS BETTY? SHE STARTED TO GO TO THE UNION MEETING. LET US GO BACK IN TIME A MERE HALF HOUR.. WE FIND BETTY STANDING HUMBLY BEFORE THE GRAVE OF HER MOTHER!

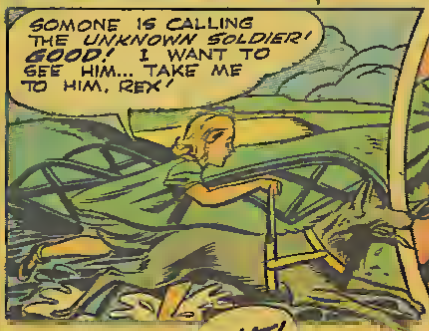







POP! IT'S MY POP! HE'S DEAD!


THAT WASN'T POP TODAY... THAT WAS SOMEONE TAKING HIS PLACE.... THAT'S WHY REX ATTACKED HIM... HE KNEW.. WHAT'S THAT?
BANG! BANG! BANG!

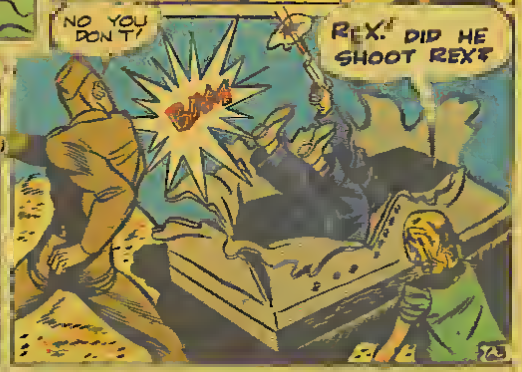

SOMONE IS CALLING THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER! GOOD! I WANT TO SEE HIM... TAKE ME TO HIM, REX!

I'M DOING A BETTER JOB THAN THE FUEHRER FIGURED ON...WIPING OUT THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AS WELL AMERICA'S SHIPS AND SHIP-YARDS HA-HA!

WHAT!
GRRRRRR GRR...

FREE! THANKS TO THE DOG!
NO, NO..GET AWAY FROM ME!
GET HIM, REX!
CRASH

DOG! THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
GET HIM, REX! GET HIM!


NO YOU DON'T!
REX! DID HE SHOOT REX?
BANG

YOU'VE STOPPED ME, BUT YOU CAN'T STOP MY WORK! YOU CAN'T SAVE THOSE TWO BATTLESHIPS IN THE CLYDE YARDS OR ALL OF THE WORKER'S GATHERED THERE, SO I'M STILL THE WINNER! HAHA-- AAGH....

MEANWHILE..AT THE MEETING THE MEN FRET IMPATIENTLY UNTIL...

LOOK! THE GREEN SLIME IS HEADING THIS WAY!

THE GREEN SLIME HASN'T REACHED THE SHIPYARD YET... I MUST STOP IT AND SAVE THOSE MEN AND THOSE SHIPS!

THE GREEN SLIME HELP!

I NEED A WHIRLWIND ..A STRONGER ONE THAN I'VE EVER USED BEFORE!

A NEW CHANNEL CUTS THE ADVANCING GREEN SLIME OFF FROM THE YARDS AND THE MEN

THE ROARING HOWLING FURY RIPS THE VERY EARTH FROM ITS PATH!

THAT DOES IT...THE SLIME WILL RUN OFF INTO THE WATER... THE THREAT IS ENDED!

LATER..

YOU'VE ALL LOST SOMETHING TODAY, BUT IN ELIMINATING THE MASTER OF THE GREEN SLIME AMERICA GAINED MORE THAN YOU EACH LOST!

THIS IS WAR.. AND THE WAY OUR ENEMIES FIGHT IT.. WE ARE ALL IN THE FRONT LINES ... BUT AMERICA HAS COURAGE AND FAITH ...AND IF ALL OF US KEEP WORKING..KEEP FIGHTING... KEEP 'EM FLYING... WE'LL SOON SEE PEACE... NOT ONLY HERE.... BUT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD!

SMASH ON TO GREATER THRILLS WITH THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOUR FAVORITE COMICS!